southern VOICE

Transphobia?

While other parts of the world seem to *love* a good sex change, why can't pop culture in the U.S. move beyond Helen Shaver's trans for pay role on CBS' 'The Education of Max Bickford'?

Main section, page 25

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 43 WWW.SOVO.COM ALL THE NEWS FOR YOUR *LIFE*. AND YOUR *STYLE*. DECEMBER 7/2001

ATLANTA EDITION

A Southern Voice analysis of 17 gay-identified precincts shows gay voters played a major role in helping Cathy Woolard become Atlanta's new City Council president.

Atlanta section, page 6

A gay man accused Atlanta City Council member Sherry Dorsey of bias against whites and gays, but the Atlanta Human Relations Commission has decided not to investigate the case.

Atlanta section, page 3

Atlanta was once known as a mecca for extravagantly produced drag shows. Today, the glamour remains, but the stages and audiences are smaller.

Atlanta section, page 17

IN THIS WEEK'S ATLANTA SECTION

R.O. YOUNGBLOOD

Atlanta City Council member Michael Bond won approval for a measure requiring city contractors to offer 'equal benefits' on Monday, the Council's last meeting before Bond leaves office after losing his bid for City Council president.

ATL Council demands DP benefits of contractors

ATLANTA — The Atlanta City Council on Monday passed landmark legislation requiring private businesses to offer domestic partner benefits in order to be eligible for city contracts.

"The City shall not enter into contracts of any kind with any business that discriminates in the provision of benefits between employees with domestic partners and other employees, to the extent allowed by law," reads the legislation, which amends Article X of the city's procurement and real estate code.

It specifies DP benefits include, but are not limited to, "medical insurance, retirement plans, leaves of absence, use of company facilities and company discounts."

The City Council voted 12-1 in favor of the brief ordinance sponsored by City Council member Michael Bond, who lost his bid for City Council president to fellow Council member Cathy Woolard, who is gay.

The measure now goes to the desk of lame duck Mayor Bill Campbell, who pledged support for the concept during his 1997 re-election campaign, but has taken no public action on the issue since then.

Open to the Atlanta section, page 1

FBI hate reports 'in shambles'?

Activists criticize annual FBI statistics as incomplete count of crimes motivated by bias, including anti-gay hate

by LAURA DOUGLAS-BROWN

The Georgia battery case gay activists hailed as the first test of the state's hate crimes law never happened, at least according to a recent Federal Bureau of Investigation report.

The FBI released its "Hate Crimes Statistics 2000" report last month to a barrage of criticism that the official numbers barely scratch the surface of the problem with bias crimes in the country.

"It's really unfortunate, because we rely on statistics to provide us with facts," said Sara "Sissy" Bowen, a lesbian who was struck in the head by a man she said yelled at her, "You want to kick my ass? You want to be a man?" during a verbal altercation at a bar in Americus, Ga.

"If the statistics aren't being documented, then we can pretend like [hate crimes] are not happening, and that is what we do far too often," Bowen said.

➢ Continued on Page 12

FRANK WILEY

In October 2000, Sissy Bowen was hit in the face by a man who 'began taunting [her] due to her sexuality,' according to a report filed by the city police department in Americus, Ga. But the police department didn't report any hate crimes to state officials, so the incident doesn't appear in the FBI's new 'Hate Crime Statistics, 2000' report.

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An equal benefits ordinance passed by the Atlanta City Council now awaits approval by Mayor Bill Campbell, who promised to support the idea when he ran for re-election in 1997 ....ATL section, pg. 1

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United We Stand.

[Individually We Think.]

Everything in America has changed since the attacks of September 11. While Americans return to work and their daily lives, Washington-based special interest groups are struggling to figure out where to go from here. The Sierra Club, which earlier this year saw an increase in fundraising from its attacks on newly-inaugurated President George W. Bush, has sent a memo to their leading members instructing them to stop bashing the President. Other groups preparing to spend millions on ad campaigns to fight the "lockbox" budget wars have gone silent. Democrats and Republicans are working together.

Gay organizations are not sure how to respond. The debate in Washington now revolves around a central question – do gay groups move ahead with the "old" agenda items? Do they put gay-specific issues on hold? Or, do they rise to meet the new challenges facing gay Americans in this new period, even if they don't fit what these groups have long argued was "the gay agenda"?

What has changed most since September 11 is the rubric for debate. Throughout the years, gay activists have relied on a paradigm of victimization to formulate their agenda for advancing our community's interests... The "virtual victimization" paradigm may have fit the time. But there was a cost. Gay Americans who bought into this paradigm were left to believe that the power to live life on their own terms is outside their control. "Virtual victims" become increasingly alienated from society, more inward-driven, and less connected to a sense of personal responsibility about how their lives turn out. We'll look back on the 1990's with an almost embarrassing realization of just how self-absorbed we were. The same gay community whose political leaders demanded employment anti-discrimination laws and hate crime protections was traveling on RSVP cruises, packing warehouse circuit parties, and filling black-tie dinner halls to hear keynote addresses from Hollywood celebrities.

If the attack on September 11 shocked our nation back to reality, it might do the same for the gay movement.

For the continuation of this article and to learn more about Liberty Education Forum (LEF) go to:

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Liberty Education Forum
New Insights on Gay and Lesbian Issues

'Open gays' can serve military well, study says

Gay service members treated well prior to discharge, new California study shows

by LOU CHIBBARO JR.

WASHINGTON — Many gays who have served openly in the U.S. military, prior to their forced discharges, performed their duties with distinction and were treated with respect and were fully accepted by their fellow service members, according to a newly released study.

The 90-page document, conducted by a University of California researcher, says its findings appear to refute assertions by military officials that homosexuality is incompatible with military service because it allegedly destroys morale and unit cohesion among rank-and-file troops.

And the study comes as America's military involvement expands oversees for its war on terrorism, yet branches of the military continue to expel openly gay soldiers while suspending discharges of other uniformed personnel.

"It's the anti-gay harassment, not the presence of gays, that hurts unit cohesion," John Ralls, a spokesperson for the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, a group that assists gays in the military, said in response to the study.

The study describes the cases of four gay service members who continued their active duty status while challenging the military's ban on gays. It also discusses previous studies on dozens of other gays who came out while in the military.

"These service members maintained collegial relationships with co-workers, received outstanding evaluations, won awards, and received promotions during their periods of open service," the study says. "They also maintained high levels of responsibility, managing personnel, overseeing military budgets, and commanding troops."

University of California researcher Rhonda Evans conducted the study for the Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military at the University of California at Santa Barbara.

Former Army Reserve Lt. Steve May was ousted after he came out as gay during a speech on the floor of the Arizona legislature. He fought the ouster, but lost.

Openly gay, still serving

Among the study's most striking examples, the study says, is U.S. Navy Commander Zoe Dunning, who holds the distinction of being the nation's only openly gay service member to be allowed to remain in the military.

Dunning, 38, disclosed her sexual orientation in 1993, after she had served in the Navy for 12 years, six years on active duty and six as a reserve officer. She began her career as a graduate at the U.S. Naval Academy.

Dunning said this week in a phone interview from her San Francisco home that a Navy panel's decision not to discharge her amounted to "opening the door for me, but closing it for everybody else."

She said she decided to come out during a rally outside San Francisco aimed at putting pressure on President Clinton to keep his promise to lift the ban on gays in the military. A Naval review panel initially ruled against her, directing that she be given an honorable discharge.

But in a development that surprised military officials and gay activists, another review panel, to which Dunning filed an appeal, handed down a unanimous decision in December 1994 to allow Dunning to remain in the service.

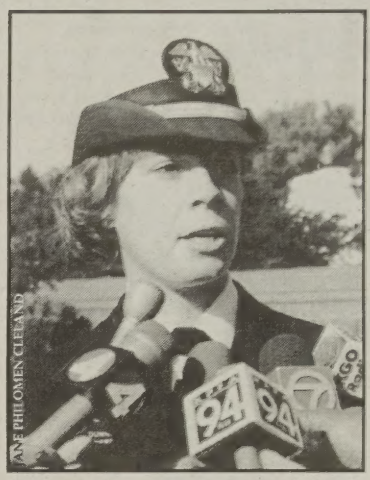
The panel said her decision to disclose that she was a lesbian didn't violate the newly adopted "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy because Dunning never indicated an "intent" to engage in same-sex sexual conduct.

The "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, which Congress passed into law in 1993, states that military authorities must make a distinction between a service member's "status" as a homosexual and whether a service member is likely to engage in "homosexual activity," which the policy prohibits.

The Department of Defense tightened its implementation rules for the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy shortly after the Navy panel ruled in Dunning's favor. The tightened rules hold that a service member's decision to disclose that he or she is gay is tantamount to a declaration of "intent" to engage in a homosexual act and is thus grounds for discharge.

The University of California study points to Dunning's eight years in the military since the Naval review panel's 1993 ruling, calling her tenure a "case study" demonstrating that an openly gay service member can serve with distinction.

The study notes that Dunning's case challenging the military's anti-gay policy drew widespread press attention, ensuring that virtually all of her commanding officers, colleagues, and subordinates knew she was a lesbian. All of them remained cordial and continued to work well with her, the study says.



Zoe Dunning has continued serving in the Navy since she came out in 1994, and now outranks the officer who served as the prosecutor in her discharge hearing.

Several of her colleagues testified in favor of her remaining in the military during her discharge hearings, the study says.

In the years following her coming out, Dunning was promoted to the rank of lieutenant commander and commander. She has been assigned to a ship stationed in the Middle East and recently has helped to train Navy personnel headed for assignments associated with the U.S. military action in Afghanistan.

She has received a Navy achievement metal. Dunning, who has since received an advanced degree from Stanford University, currently serves as an assistant to the commander-in-chief of the U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Out and out of the service

In addition to examining Dunning, the study explored the post-coming out experiences of three other service members: former Naval Petty Officer Keith Meinhold, former Navy Lt. Richard Watson, and former Army Reserve Lt. Steve May.

Unlike Dunning, Meinhold, Watson and May are no longer in the service. However, the study notes that they continued to serve in the military for several years after disclosing their sexual orientation.

In all three cases, the study says, fellow service members maintained a professional working relationship with them, providing first-hand proof that unit cohesion and troop morale remained high in the full and open presence of an openly gay service member.

Ralls, the SLDN spokesperson, said several studies by the organization reporting widespread instances of anti-gay harassment within the military don't contradict the University of California study.

Anti-gay harassment remains prevalent in units where military commanders don't take steps to reprimand or discipline service members who engage in such harassment, Ralls said.

"The military says it wants to stop harassment, but policies to curtail harassment have not yet been implemented," Ralls said. "We are not seeing adequate training programs, and those engaged in harassment are not being held accountable."

Dunning, who operates a management-consulting firm during her off-duty periods, continues to serve as a Naval reserve officer. She said an example of how her career has flourished as an openly gay officer surfaced in a dramatic way last month, while she was assigned to a ship overseeing battle exercises in the Pacific in preparation for deployment to the Middle East.

While dining with a group of fellow officers onboard the ship, the USS Coronado, Dunning said, she recognized a lieutenant commander seated across the table from her. It was the former lieutenant who served as prosecutor during her 1994 discharge hearing.

As a full commander, Dunning was now a full rank above her former prosecutor, who currently was serving as judge advocate general, or JAG, officer on the Coronado.

"We exchanged greetings," said Dunning. "The others at the table didn't know the nature of our past relationship. The fact that I had been promoted above him presented a certain irony."

War on terrorism

The findings of the California study come as American is beefing up its military machine for a war on terrorism.

But as troops readied for battle after the Sept. 11 attacks, military officials made it clear that openly gay soldiers are not welcome.

In the weeks following the attacks, the U.S. Navy and Air Force directed its commanders to continue to discharge gay sailors under the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy while suspending discharges of other uniformed naval personnel on a variety of administrative grounds as part of a wartime "stop-loss" policy.

"It's a very important message that stop-loss orders don't affect discharges of gays and lesbians," Ralls has said. "Gay people cannot enlist."

The stop-loss orders apply to routine administrative discharges like the delay of early retirements or people who may not meet the physical fitness requirements, Ralls said.

INFO

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Pentagon gay partners face hurdles in Va.

Critics say state's governor unwilling to help; federal measure also under scrutiny by gays

by RHONDA SMITH

ARLINGTON, Va. — Lesbians and gay men who lost partners during the Sept. 11 attacks are learning tough lessons nationwide about the legal and social rules that often limit how much help they receive from various sources.

Peggy Neff received $7,900 from the American Red Cross and money from the National Association of Realtors to help pay the mortgage on the home in Hyattsville, Md., she shared with Sheila Hein, her partner of 18 years.

Hein, the family's primary breadwinner, was killed during the attack at the Pentagon.

"At my current salary," Neff said, "I don't make enough to pay the mortgage and the bills."

But officials at the Virginia Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund in Richmond told Neff in a recent letter that she is not eligible to file a claim for benefits, based on state law. Under the Virginia Victims of Crime Act, the letter stated, "only a surviving spouse, parent, grandparent, sibling, adult child, or legal dependent of a deceased victim is eligible to file a claim and receive an award."

Reed Boatright, a spokesperson for Republican Gov. Virginia Gov. James S. Gilmore III, said Neff may appeal to the Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission, which administers the fund in question.

"But the law is very particular," he added. "It appears clear to our legal folks that we couldn't [assist Neff] with the stroke of a pen."

An appeal to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund is also available, though Director Mary Vail Ware said eligibility is "probably not" one of the areas in which an appeal would be successful.

Lesbians and gay men who lost partners during the attack at the World Trade Center in New York have received a much different response from state officials.

New York Gov. George E. Pataki, also a Republican, issued an executive order that temporarily suspended provisions relating to crime victims' awards for people dependent upon loved ones killed at the World Trade Center in September.

Gays who prove that they depended on a victim for principal support qualify for financial help. The order also lowers the amount of the support that a person needed from the crime victim to receive assistance.

"If the [Virginia] government wants to do something in a situation like this, they can do it," said Matt Foreman, the former executive director of the Empire State Pride Agenda, one of the gay civil rights groups in New York that urged Pataki to issue the executive order.

Ware said Gilmore does not have the power to do what Pataki did because Virginia's governor does not have the same legal authority. It's up to state lawmakers to make changes, she said.

Joe Price, general counsel for Virginians for Justice, a statewide gay civil rights group, said a state law that allows Virginia's governor to act as director of emergency management also extends power to issue executive orders.

"The language is broad, but it seems to say the governor can do what he wants in times of emergency," Price said.

Federal government officials are working on a similar matter — the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001.

In late November, the U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft appointed Kenneth Feinberg as "special master" to administer the federal government's victim compensation fund. The U.S. Dept. of Justice has until Dec. 21 to issue regulations governing how the program will be administered.

Charles Miller, a spokesperson for the Justice Department, said the question of whether domestic partners would be included in the victim compensation program has yet to be determined.

Peggy Neff (right) is trying to cope with the financial impact of losing her partner of 18 years, Shelia Hein, who was killed in the Sept. 11 attack on the Pentagon. Virginia law does not include gay partners in a state compensation fund.

Of the 765 public comments submitted so far, 252 pertain to gay-related issues, according to a review of the Web site www.usdoj.gov/victimcompensation.

David Smith, a spokesperson and senior strategist for the Human Rights Campaign, said the Washington, D.C.-based gay lobbying group has been working to assist Neff and others.

While persuading Virginia officials to assist Neff is important, Smith said, "we're focusing our effort on the federal fund and making sure gay families will be able to access that."

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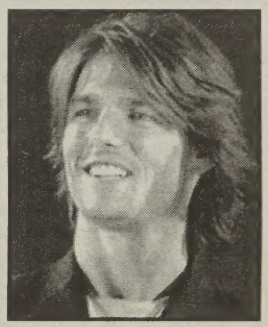
Anti-gay Robertson quits post as head of Christian Coalition

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. — Anti-gay televangelist Pat Robertson resigned on Wednesday as head of the Christian Coalition, the powerful conservative political organization he founded in 1989 after a failed campaign for the U.S. presidency, according to Reuters. Robertson, widely criticized for implying the U.S. brought the Sept. 11 attacks on itself by abandoning God, said he stepped down to focus his energies on his Christian ministry and The Christian Broadcasting Network. "I feel that we in America are right now in the midst of the greatest spiritual revival that I have seen in my lifetime, and I personally feel that my calling is to be involved in spiritual things," he told Reuters in a telephone interview. Robertson, 71, came under fire in September after fellow evangelist Jerry Falwell, in an appearance on Robertson's "The 700 Club" program, said the secularization of the country by liberals, gays and the ACLU was to blame for the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington. The board of the Christian Coalition, which is based in Virginia Beach, Virginia, named executive vice president Roberta Combs to replace Robertson as president.

Tom Cruise drops lawsuit, lashes out at snoops

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Tom Cruise dropped a $100 million defamation lawsuit against a magazine publisher after the publisher stated he does not have a videotape showing the actor having sex with another man. "Cruise does not appear on the videotape to which said defendant referred," a Superior Court stipulation said. "(Cruise) is not, and never has been, homosexual and has never had a homosexual affair." Judge Emilie Elias approved the stipulation on Nov. 29. Cruise's lawsuit, filed June 4, accused Michael Davis of Bold magazine of sending news releases to at least a dozen U.S. media organizations alleging Cruise engaged in a gay relationship during his marriage to Nicole Kidman. Under terms of the settlement, Davis must pay his own legal fees and is prohibited from "issuing or authorizing the issuance of any statement contrary to any of the foregoing findings." Cruise recently told Vanity Fair that "people should mind their own damn business and get a life of their own. ... My personal life isn't here to sell newspapers," Reuters reported.



Tom Cruise dropped a $100 million defamation lawsuit against a magazine publisher, but criticized people who don't 'mind their own damn business.'

Vt. Supreme Court hears civil union challenge

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) — Vermont's Supreme Court was asked Nov. 29 to decide whether wagering among 14 lawmakers about the outcome of last year's civil unions debate should invalidate the statute. Groups of town clerks, legislators and taxpayers want the high court to order a trial on their complaint, which was thrown out by a Superior Court judge a year ago. But the attorney general's office, defending the law, argued that none of the people who sued had legal standing to make a case. And, besides, the state argued, none of the claims had merit. The town clerks, legislators and taxpayers each made separate arguments about why the civil unions law was unconstitutional. But it was the betting pool among the 14 House members on the day of the preliminary vote on the bill that captured most of the attention at the Supreme Court.

around the nation

Detroit takes first step toward DP benefits

DETROIT (AP) — The City Council here could be on its way to instituting domestic partner benefits for city employees after approving an amendment to the city code. The Nov. 30 move comes after nearly six years of negotiations, confrontations and task force meetings. The council approved by a vote of 7-2 the first of four amendments to the city code to provide for the recognition and registration of domestic partnerships. At least three more ordinance changes need to be passed before domestic partners actually receive benefits. "It is a benchmark, watershed event by the city," said City Council member Sheila Cockrel, who voted for the proposal. The action last week covers nonunion employees. Unionized employees will have to bargain for the benefits in contract negotiations. The city has more than 17,000 employees, most covered by union contracts.

Lawsuit challenges Oklahoma City banner policy

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — A Gay Pride group filed a federal lawsuit Nov. 30 alleging its free speech rights were violated by a policy that keeps its banners off city flag poles. The Cimarron Alliance Foundation also says the city policy is discriminatory and violates its equal protection rights. Under the policy, organizations are prohibited from using city light poles or benches to promote social, religious or political issues. The city rejected the foundation's application to display banners during Gay & Lesbian History Month in October. The policy was approved in August after people complained about the group's banners, which were flown from city flagpoles earlier in the summer. Michael Salem, an attorney working on behalf of the foundation, said the city's actions in adopting the policy and denying banner display permits amount to "revoking the citizenship" of Cimarron Alliance members. Representatives of the city attorney's office said they had not seen the lawsuit and would have no comment.

— From staff and wire reports

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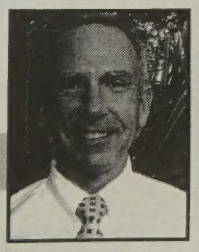
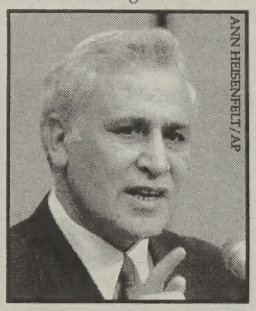


Gay Canadians sue government for past-due benefits

TORONTO, Canada (AP) — Two lawsuits, contending that the government discriminated against gay and lesbian surviving partners by denying them survivor benefits, have been filed against the Canadian government. The lawsuits seek $400 million (Canadian) in compensation for unpaid pension benefits. The suit claims the government discriminated against gays by denying benefits if a spouse died before Jan. 1, 1998, the cutoff date in a bill passed last year which granted various rights to same-sex couples. Lawyers for the plaintiffs said the cutoff date was arbitrary and are seeking compensation dating back to April 17, 1985, the day equality guarantees were placed in the Charter of Rights & Freedoms. Lawyer Patricia LeFebour noted that gay and lesbian Canadians pay into the federal pension plan just the same as other people and should be entitled to its benefits. "The government does not discriminate when it collects the money; it only discriminates in paying the benefit," she said.

Gay group has 'historic meeting' with Israeli president

JERUSALEM, Israel — Members of the Political Council for Gay Rights had a "historic meeting" with Israeli President Moshe Katsav, according to the Jerusalem Post. Warning that the meeting should not be interpreted as either encouragement or criticism, Katsav, nonetheless, listened to grievances and told attendees that if he would be happy to help them any way he could. "I thought it was important to meet you and hear what you have to say, though I don't see how I can help you," Katsav said at the end of the meeting, according to the newspaper. Among the issues discussed was that although leading political figures say they accept gays as equals, they decline to attend gay functions. Following this discussion, an attendee invited the president to the 2002 Gay Pride Day festivities. Others talked about the difficulties gays and those in the "cross-gender" community" have when trying to adopt children.


ANN HEISENFELT/AP

Israeli President Moshe Katsav recently held a historic meeting with a gay rights group, but said he didn't know if there was much he could do to support them.

Colombia recognizes gay unions, offers protections

SANTA FE DE BOGOTA, Colombia — Same-sex unions will be recognized and protected, the First Commission of the Senate of Colombia proclaimed, according to El Tiempo. This recognition will give the couples "access to social security, the right to mutual nourishment and to merge their patrimonial belongings." The project, which was approved by a vote of nine-to-one, requires that same-sex couples who decide to have a union will have to draft a public statement and that the relationship will be recognized only if it is made up of a stable and free union between two adults who have lived together for at least two years and have registered their partnership. Six items were taken out of the project, including one asking for the elimination of anti-gay content from scholastic texts and programs. In reaction to the development, presidential candidate Luis Eduardo Garzon said that although "the Constitution does not allow homosexual unions, in terms of the freedom of each human being to choose his sex, this seems absolutely valid to me."

around the world

Seminar shows weakness of Thai laws about gays

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — A seminar on lesbian rights was told last week that Thai laws are obsolete and incapable of handling problems concerning gender and gay issues. The problem has been highlighted as more and more gays are coming out and women are more forcefully asserting their rights, said Naiyana Supapeung, a member of the National Committee on Human Rights. "Thai laws recognize only the status of straight men and women. Therefore, when there are legal issues concerning homosexual activities, they cannot be used effectively," she said. For example, a man can not be punished for raping another man since the law only defines rape as forced sex between a man and a woman. Also, a man can file for divorce only if he can prove his wife had an affair with another man, but is at a disadvantage if he wants divorce because the wife is having a lesbian affair.

U.N.: Laws against homosexuality help spread HIV

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad (AP) — The United Nations has called on Caribbean governments to relax laws that criminalize homosexuality and prostitution in an effort to combat the spread of AIDS. Gays and prostitutes "will not come forward to be tested, educated and to be treated, because there are laws against them," said Dr. Ruben Del Prado, regional program adviser for the Joint U.N. Program on HIV/AIDS. The Caribbean, excluding Cuba, has an HIV infection rate of nearly 2 percent, the second-highest regional rate after sub-Saharan Africa. About 500,000 people in the Caribbean live with the disease. This year's UNAIDS report states that 46 percent of sex workers surveyed in Guyana were living with the disease. Del Prado said that many sex workers, male and female, who are not properly educated, will agree to sex without condoms for higher fees. Laws that criminalize homosexuality are common throughout the Caribbean.

— From staff and wire reports

For more news, visit **www.sovo.com**

Man charged in murder of gay AOL executive

Douglas Small listed as missing until body discovered weeks later; police say bias not a motive

by LOU CHIBBARO JR.

WASHINGTON — A Prince William County, Va., contractor allegedly killed a gay America Online executive earlier this month over an argument about renovations at the victim's townhouse, District Police Chief Charles Ramsey said.

Ramsey said police could find no evidence that Douglas Small's slaying was a hate crime. Small had been missing since Nov. 6; his body was found Nov. 30.

Ramsey said on Dec. 1 that Prince William police, working with D.C. police investigators, arrested Walter Thomas Godbey, 33, a day earlier on a charge of second degree murder in connection with Small's death. Ramsey said Godbey gave police information that enabled them to find Small's body on Nov. 30, in a remote area off of Eisenhower Avenue in Alexandria.

According to Ramsey, Godbey allegedly shot Small to death inside Small's Northwest D.C. townhouse on the morning of Nov. 6 after the two argued over the quality of renovation work that Godbey had been performing on Small's house.

Friends and colleagues at AOL said Small, a marketing director, failed to show up for work on Nov. 6 and did not call to say why he missed a scheduled business meeting. Police later listed Small as a missing person and appealed to gays for help in finding him.

AOL announced it was offering a $25,000 reward for information leading to Small's whereabouts.

Ramsey said Godbey's arrest came after police obtained a warrant to search his home in Gainville, Va., where police recovered at least 10 handguns. Police said one of the guns is the one Godbey allegedly used to shoot Small inside his townhouse.

Ramsey told reporters Small sustained gunshot wounds in the head and upper body.

Police said that at the time police searched Godbey's house, he gave D.C. police detectives a statement that enabled investigators to find Small's body in a secluded area on the 4900 block of Eisenhower Avenue in Alexandria, near the site of an industrial park.

Police confirmed the identity of the body on Dec. 2, after the D.C. Medical Examiner's office completed an autopsy.

Godbey, who is married and has two children, is currently being held without bail at the Prince William County detention center. He is scheduled to appear at an extradition hearing on Jan. 4 in the Prince William County General District Court, where D.C. authorities will seek permission to transfer Godbey to the District for prosecution.

"The arrest warrant states at some point he and Mr. Small became involved in an argument over workmanship and he allegedly produced a handgun and shot and killed Mr. Small during an altercation," a D.C. police statement says. "Mr. Godbey reportedly later took Mr. Small's body to the Alexandria location."

Police said a break in their investigation occurred on Nov. 27, nearly three weeks after Small disappeared, when they obtained a warrant to conduct a search of Small's house. That's when investigators found bloodstains and a shell casing from a handgun, police sources said.

Investigators also found documents leading to the identification of the contractor, which cleared the way for a search of Godbey's house.

Some of Small's friends have expressed concern that police waited too long to conduct their search of Small's house.

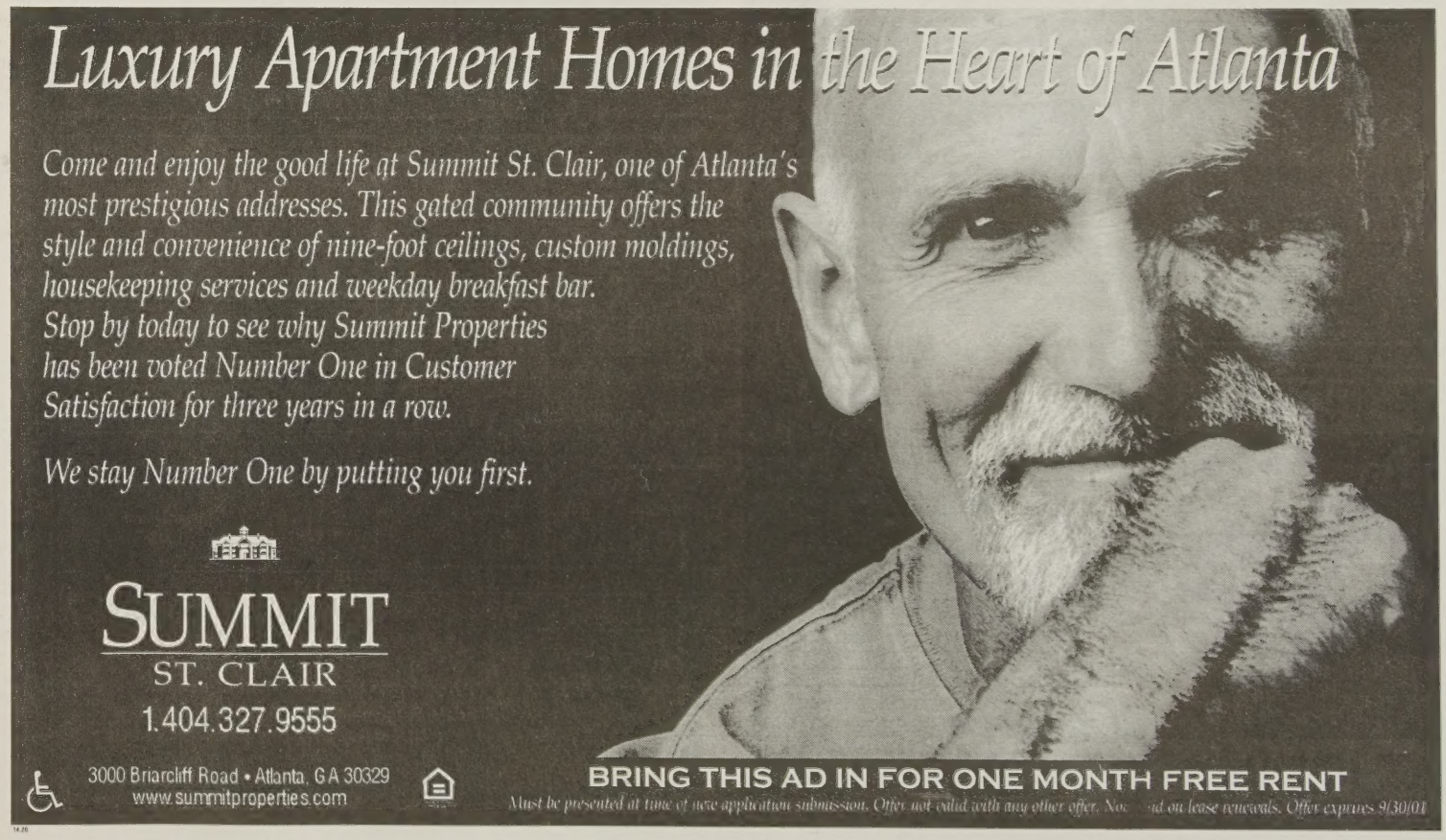
"We're concerned about the whole missing person's process," said Joe Harris, president of a civic association in the neighborhood where Small's townhouse is located. "We feel they should have acted sooner."

D.C. Police Det. James Manning, one of the lead investigators in the case, declined to disclose whether Godbey told police why he had a handgun in his possession when he arrived at Small's house on Nov. 6.

Douglas Small (left), a gay manager for AOL, was shot to death and his body dumped in a remote area of Alexandria, Va., last month. Walter Thomas Godbey (right), a contractor hired by Small, was charged in the killing.

Prosecutors could use evidence of a premeditated shooting to elevate the charge against Godbey from second degree to first-degree murder, officials said.

"It's possible this could be bumped up a notch to first-degree murder," Manning said. "The United States Attorney's office will have to make that decision."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Gay marketing focus of tobacco conference

Strategies urged to snuff out smoking habits of gays during New Orleans event

by MIKE FLEMING

NEW ORLEANS — In response to statistics that show 50 percent more gay men and lesbians smoke cigarettes than their straight counterparts, the National Conference on Tobacco Health held here last week included discussions on how to reach gay smokers with anti-smoking efforts.

Some 60 people attended three sessions that analyzed both how the tobacco industry targets gay smokers and how tobacco control advocates can mirror those efforts to convince more gays to stop smoking.

"The tobacco industry publicly denies targeting gay smokers," said Anne Landman, western regional program coordinator for the American Lung Association of Colorado. "But an examination of their ads and their internal documents shows they are tailoring a special message to the gay community."

INFO

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www.TobaccoControlConference.org

Gays are one of six "priority populations" being targeted by the American Legacy Foundation, the independent organization created by the 1998 Master Settlement Agreement between the tobacco industry and a coalition of state attorneys general. The ALF is allocating a portion of the billions in tobacco dollars to develop programs aimed specifically at gay smokers and gay youth.

During the conference, Landman showed gay-friendly tobacco ads and presented a series of internal documents from tobacco companies that clearly showed an interest in reaching, even manipulating, gay smokers.

One Benson & Hedges Marketing Department memo called for a study to identify the "intrinsic needs and desires" of gay smokers so the company could "claim a significant portion of the gay smoking market."

Tobacco giant RJ Reynolds revealed its gay target by launching "Project SCUM," or Sub Culture Urban Marketing, to ramp up sales of their Red Kamel brand. Project SCUM documents identified their targets as "gays, foreigners, Generation X and street people."

And the industry doesn't just focus on advertising campaigns, said Bob Gordon, spokesperson for the San Francisco Department of Public Health's Tobacco Free Project. He is also a board member of the Coalition of Lavender Americans on Smoking & Health.

"It's even more effective and craftier if they can work from inside the community," Gordon said.

Companies like RJ Reynolds and Philip Morris have become big-dollar supporters of gay causes, like AIDS charities, in order to ally themselves with gays, Gordon said. But that support comes as the companies offer financial help to political figures like anti-gay U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.).

The tobacco industry has also begun to sponsor smoking areas at large gay events and has learned to adopt language in their ads that are hot-button issues for gays, he said.

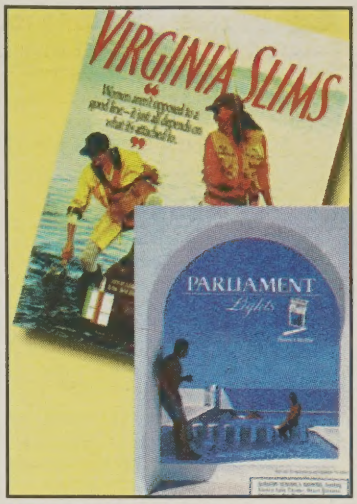
Philip Morris publishes ads with terms like "diversity," "domestic partners," and "anti-discrimination," Gordon said.

Gordon's Lavender Coalition published an "ethical funding" brochure that implores gay groups not to accept sponsorships from tobacco companies and provides methods for setting such policies.

While the speakers at the conference contended that targeting specific populations has become a mainstay of the tobacco industry, one panel member argued that gays are more vulnerable to tobacco marketing.

"Tobacco use may be equated with masculinity by gay men," said Perry Stevens, an independent consultant for the national Centers for Disease Control's Office on Smoking & Tobacco Health. "We eroticize and fetishize tobacco use like cigarettes in bars and in social clubs for cigar smokers."

Cigarettes are also social and psychological crutches that could be more influential among people believed to be oppressed, Stevens said.



Gay-friendly tobacco ads and high rates of smoking among gay men and lesbians came under fire during a conference in New Orleans last week.

The conference also set out to design a plan to include gays in anti-smoking campaigns like the Gay Smoke Out, though those efforts need more funding, said Heather Ryan, an officer of Tobacco Health at the CDC and moderator for the strategy panel.

"Smoking falls low on the hierarchy of need for GLBT folks," said Michael Gipson, a coordinator for the Natinal Youth Advocacy Coalition. "It's sad, but GLBT people find intervention annoying. We must be quite innovative to engage them on their own terms."

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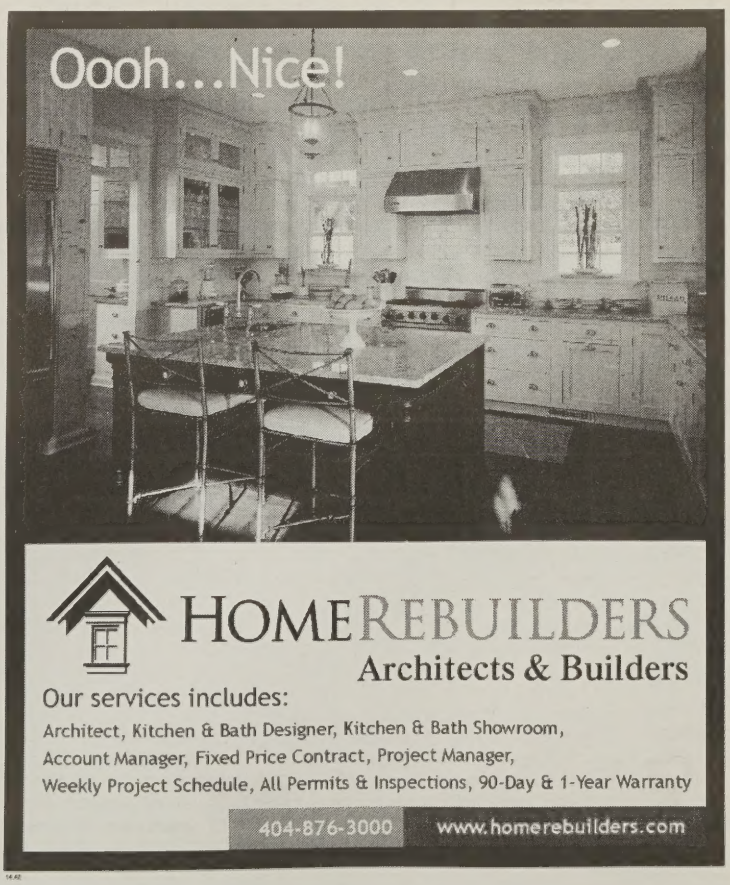
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Gay Web site drops calls for deaths to conservative leaders

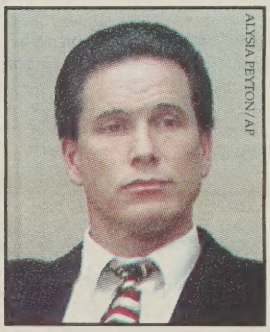
WASHINGTON, D.C. — A militant gay activist Web site has erased a page that says prominent conservatives "deserve" painful deaths, according to Wired News. Usqueers.com talked about figures such as former President Ronald Reagan, senators Jesse Helms and Strom Thurmond, and Pat Robertson, saying such things as "Ronald Reagan, ex-President, deserves to experience a horrible death soon, and is getting what he deserves. We're listing him as wounded because the way he is dying is horrible and irreversible." Now the "Het Supremacists wish list" is offline. The drive against usqueers.com, according the Wired News, seems to have started with conservative attorney John B. Thompson, who wrote to the Justice Department suggesting the site's owners be charged with "left-wing domestic terrorism." Anti-gay Rev. Louis P. Sheldon has filed a hate crime complaint with the U.S. Justice Department against the Web site because he is also a target for "a horrible death soon," according to a press release from the Traditional Values Coalition.

Kan. teen says he killed gay man over sexual advances

WICHITA, Kan. (AP) — Zachary Steward, 18, has admitted to beating and killing a Wichita man who made sexual advances toward him and a friend. Steward pleaded guilty to felony murder and aggravated robbery. In exchange for the pleas, prosecutors dismissed five other counts, including premeditated first-degree murder, aggravated burglary and aggravated arson. Steward and co-defendant Brandon Boone are accused of beating Marcell Eads, 58, in his home in June and then setting Eads' house on fire after taking a stereo and a computer. Both Steward and Boone have blamed each other for striking Eads on his head and for setting the fire, though both claim responsibility for trying to extinguish the fire. Witnesses also testified that Eads' sexual advances angered the two accused. Steward will likely face a sentence of life in prison without parole for 25 years; Boone's trial is scheduled for January.

Ohio anti-gay flag burner is cleared of charges

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Street preacher Charles Spingola last week was acquitted of assault and aggravated menacing charges stemming from a protest he staged at the city's annual Gay Pride event. Spingola was accused of splashing a flammable liquid on a female security guard for the parade. The woman, Andrea Critchet, said Spingola was holding matches when he tossed the liquid at her and she said he told her she would burn in hell. But prosecutors could provide no witnesses to the incident. Spingola also said he did not handle a gas can filled with lamp oil that was used to burn a Gay Pride flag on a downtown street corner. The judge had earlier dismissed charges that Spingola had violated fire code, ruling that flag burning is protected under the First Amendment. The city prosecutor's office is appealing that decision.


ALYSIA PEYTON/AP

Charles Spingola, an anti-gay street preacher in Ohio, was acquitted of charges that he assaulted a security guard at a Gay Pride event.

Two Calif. AIDS activists charged with stalking

SAN FRANCISCO — Two AIDS activists were arrested in a San Francisco courthouse Nov. 28 and charged with stalking and making terrorist threats against city health officials and staff members of the Chronicle, the newspaper reported. David Pasquarelli and Michael Petrelis were held on $500,000 bail each. Both had come to Superior Court for a hearing on civil harassment suits by two public health officials and five Chronicle reporters and editors, all allegedly the targets of threatening telephone calls. They were arrested in a hallway after the hearing. "No quarantine of gay men in San Francisco!" Pasquarelli shouted as he was taken away in handcuffs. Pasquarelli is a member of ACT UP/San Francisco, a group that has clashed with mainstream AIDS organizations over its belief that AIDS is not caused by HIV. "Stalking is a crime of mental terrorism," said Reginald Smith, spokesperson for District Attorney Terence Hallinan. "The defendants have been on a campaign of terror against these victims, who fear for their safety and for their families' safety." Michael Bellefountaine, another member of ACT UP/San Francisco, called the courthouse arrests a "cowardly ambush."

Calif. brothers sentenced, still face gay murder case

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Two white supremacist brothers, Benjamin Matthew Williams and James Tyler Williams, were given long federal prison terms and told to pay $1 million for setting fires at three Sacramento synagogues and an abortion clinic. Benjamin was sentenced to a mandatory 30 years under his plea agreement; his brother was sentenced to 21 years and three months under his plea. The brothers still face state murder charges and possible death penalties in the slayings of a gay couple in Shasta County in July 1999. The two have pleaded innocent to those charges and face a jury trial in April. Prosecutors and defense attorneys agreed that the elder brother, Benjamin, deserved the longer term because he planned and organized the arsons. Since his arrest, Benjamin has repeatedly professed anti-Semitic, anti-gay and white supremacist views.

— From staff and wire reports

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FBI report undercounts bias crimes, critics say

➢ Continued from Page 1

The FBI's 2000 hate crime report shows the number of anti-gay hate crimes reported in the U.S. rose from 1,317 in 1999 to 1,330 in 2000, representing a 0.9 percent increase.

Crimes based on sexual orientation accounted for 15 percent of reported hate crimes, the third most common category of bias, behind crimes based on race (54.7 percent) and religion (16 percent).

The FBI's report shows the total number of hate crimes against all categories of victims increased 3.5 percent from 1999 to 2000, from 7,876 incidents in 1999 to 8,152 incidents in 2000, according to the report.

But the true number of hate crimes last year may top 50,000, according to officials with the Birmingham, Ala.-based Southern Poverty Law Center, a nonprofit organization that monitors hate groups around the country.

"We essentially found that the entire system for collecting the FBI's hate crimes statistics is in shambles," said Heidi Beirich, a senior writer with the SPLC's Intelligence Report.

Problems start at local level

An Intelligence Report article written by Beirich and released last week documented multiple problems in the FBI's hate crime statistics for 1999. The 2000 numbers were released too late for the SPLC analysis, but the problems remain, Beirich said.

"We found problems ranging from the inability of local police departments to identify hate crimes, to problems with administrators who have problems filling out and distributing paperwork, to errors in state agencies that compile the numbers, and even one case where the FBI actually entered the wrong numbers in the report [in 1999]," Beirich said.

Bowen's case in Georgia provides just one example of a crime omitted from the 2000 statistics.

A reporter for the Albany Herald, Bowen said she was sitting with friends on the porch of a restaurant and bar in Americus on Oct. 12, 2000 when Steven Van Deventer began a verbal altercation, then struck her, knocking her glasses from her face.

Van Deventer later pleaded "no contest" and was sentenced to 12 months in jail and a $600 fine.

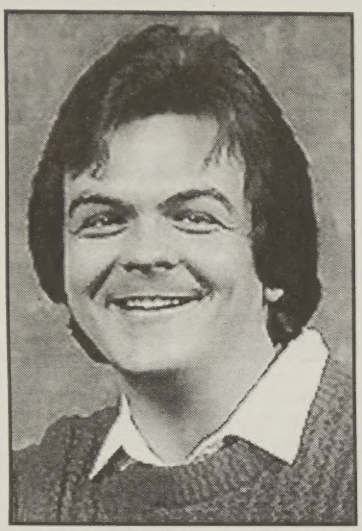
An incident report filed by the Americus Police Department notes that Van Deventer "began taunting [Bowen] due to her sexuality."

But Bowen's case is not included in the FBI's hate crime report because the Americus Police Department did not participate in hate crimes reporting, which remains voluntary around the country.

Local law enforcement jurisdictions report annual totals of hate crimes to state agencies, which then report those numbers to the FBI.

The Americus Police Department is not among the 80 Georgia police jurisdictions listed as participating in the FBI report, and officials with the police department did not respond to interview requests.

The problem of incorrect or incomplete reporting appears to be widespread, from small town police departments to those in larger urban areas, according to a national coalition of organizations that monitor anti-gay violence.



The killing of Billy Jack Gaither, a gay Alabama man murdered in 1999, highlights a problem in the South: Police agencies in states like Alabama and Georgia often don't take part in reporting bias crimes to the FBI.

The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs cited data from 2000 showing that local gay organizations in just 11 jurisdictions listed at least 2,151 anti-gay hate crimes, 834 more than the FBI reported from around the country.

"This is not a criticism of the FBI," said Jeff Montgomery, an official with the NCAVP and executive director of the Detroit-based Triangle Foundation, which monitors anti-gay violence in Michigan.

"The problem gets down to local law enforcement authorities not knowing, caring, or giving a damn about hate crimes," he said.

False zeroes = false reports

The FBI's statistics include 11,690 reporting agencies in 48 states and the District of Columbia, covering 84.2 percent of the nation's population.

But even those figures may be misleading, according to both the SPLC and a joint study by the Center for Criminal Justice Policy Research at Northeastern University and the Justice Research & Statistics Association in Washington, D.C.

The Northeastern study, released in September 2000, looked at FBI statistics from 1991 to 1998.

"Nearly 12,000 agencies now 'participate' with the UCR Hate Crime Reporting Program," the study said. "Participation, however, is a somewhat misleading term, as the vast majority (83 percent in 1998) of agencies 'participate' by submitting that their jurisdiction had 'zero' hate crimes during the year."

Many of the reports of "zero" hate crimes are not accurate, Beirich found in her recent survey for the SPLC. The zero reports should reflect law enforcement jurisdictions that reported they had no hate crimes for the year, although that number may still be wrong if police don't report crimes that did occur.

But the numbers are made even more inaccurate by a number of state agencies, including Georgia and North Carolina in the South, that submitted reports of "zero" hate crimes for some jurisdictions that actually did not participate in hate crime reporting at all, according to Beirich.

"In Georgia... the state Uniform Crime Reporting office says there are 'two types of zero' — zeroes reported by agencies and others, where state officials 'just assume you had zero,'" Beirich reported.

FBI officials acknowledge their figures are incomplete.

"Though the reports from these agencies are insufficient to allow a valid national or regional measure of the volume and types of crimes motivated by hate, they offer perspectives on the general nature of hate crime occurrence," according to an FBI press release.

Gay men most at-risk for anti-gay crimes

While the numbers are far from comprehensive, the "perspectives" offered by the FBI statistics on sexual orientation appear bleak, especially for gay men.

The FBI's data show that 54.7 percent of bias-related incidents it recorded were based on race, 16 percent were based on religion, 15 percent were based on sexual orientation, 12.4 percent were based on ethnicity, 0.4 percent were based on a person's disability and 0.2 percent were based on multiple factors.

The 2000 report also shows a continuation of the trend, first observed in the early 1990s, that the overwhelming majority of anti-sexual orientation hate crimes are committed against gay men.

The data from the FBI's annual crime report show that law enforcement agencies reported 925 "anti-male homosexual" incidents involving 1,052 criminal offenses in 2000 compared to 181 "anti-female homosexual" incidents involving 213 criminal offenses.

The 2000 report shows that law enforcement agencies reported 182 "anti-homosexual" incidents, involving 210 offenses, where the gender of the victim was not reported; 22 "anti-heterosexual" incidents; and 20 "anti-bisexual."

Sexual orientation crimes across the South

The FBI's statistics, however incomplete, also show that crimes on the basis of sexual orientation continue to be a problem in the South, both in terms of actual incidents and in reporting.

Alabama, home to the anti-gay murder of Billy Jack Gaither in 1999 that made headlines around the country, did not participate in hate crimes reporting at all that year or in 2000.

Only one other state, Hawaii, failed completely to participate.

"Our organization knows for a fact that hate crimes have occurred in the state of Alabama against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people, but because no police or sheriff's department is required to report these statistics, it is almost like they don't exist here," said David White, state coordinator for the Gay & Lesbian Alliance of Alabama.

Mississippi listed 78 participating jurisdictions in 2000, but reported only two hate crimes in the entire state, both at the University of Mississippi in Oxford and both on the basis of race.

South Carolina also reported no hate crimes on the basis of sexual orientation, while North Carolina reported only one, and Louisiana reported just two.

Fifteen percent of hate crimes reported in Tennessee (34 out of a total of 230) and Florida (36 out of 240) were on the basis of sexual orientation.

The percentage of bias crimes motivated by sexual orientation jumped to 31 percent in Georgia, where anti-gay crimes accounted for 11 of 35 incidents.

But those numbers, too, can be difficult to interpret, critics warned.

Often, an increase in the number of hate crimes being reported reflects not an increase in actual crime, but improved documentation in that area.

> 'Hate crimes have occurred in the state of Alabama against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people, but because no police or sheriff's department is required to report these statistics, it is almost like they don't exist here.'
> —David White

"In effect, under the current system, an area gets punished for doing a good job because it looks like the community is driven by hate," said Beirich of the SPLC.

Such may be the case with the city of Atlanta, which reported 21 of the 35 hate crimes submitted by the state to the FBI, including 73 percent of the crimes on the basis of sexual orientation, or 8 out of a total of 11.

"I think it has to do with the fact that we are reporting those [hate crimes] that we are aware of, and the fact that the Atlanta metro area has more people than any other part of Georgia," said Officer John Quigley, spokesperson for the Atlanta Police Department.

"Where there are people, there are crimes, and we do what is expected of us regarding reporting them," Quigley said.

The first step to improve the usefulness and completeness of FBI data would be to provide law enforcement jurisdictions with better training on how to recognize and report hate crimes, activists said.

— Lou Chibbaro Jr. contributed to this report.

University president chided for anti-gay remark

Parents want Bowie State head fired over comments about marching bands at his school and Atlanta's Morehouse College

by KARA FOX

BOWIE, Md. — Parents and students at Bowie State University are demanding that the school's president be fired after he allegedly referred to the university's marching band as "terrorists" and used an anti-gay epithet to describe their dancing.

Bowie State President Calvin W. Lowe admitted to "talking about the terrorist acts" at a meeting with about 80 band parents, but said he was misunderstood.

Parents are accusing Lowe of saying members of the school's Symphony of Soul Marching Band — as well as the band of Atlanta-based Morehouse College — were "faggot dancing on the football field."

Yvette Martin-Gross, president of the band's booster club, said that after using the epithet, Lowe "denied ever saying it, then said he was relaying what other people said to him. Basically, he lied."

Lowe did not respond to repeated interview requests.

He told the Washington Post that he spoke of "silly dancing" that would reflect poorly on the university of 5,500 students. He said he used the derogatory label for gays only when he was reporting what others had said about Bowie's reputation, according to the Post.

Martin-Gross said she wrote letters to Nathan A. Chapman Jr., board chair of the University System of Maryland, and to Maryland Gov. Parris N. Glendening, requesting that immediate action be taken.

"On Tuesday, October 9, before Bowie State University administration, faculty, and myself, Dr. Lowe expressed his disgust at the Morehouse College and Bowie State University Marching Bands engaging in what he termed as 'faggot dancing,'" Martin-Gross wrote in her letter to Glendening.

"This derogatory terminology causes me great personal pain. Furthermore it demeans the diverse population that comprises the Bowie State University student body. It is difficult for me to explain the depth of disdain that was relayed by Dr. Lowe, as that statement flowed from his lips as easily as a request for water.

"It is attitudes such as this that have paved the way to hurt, harm, danger, and sometimes death for many of our fellow citizens," the letter said.

Martin-Gross then went on to say that Lowe's "homophobic behavior must not exist in a collegiate environment and is worthy of no less than public and or legal intervention."

She said she was upset about "the words he let come out of his mouth," and plans to continue to seek his resignation.

Bowie State University President Calvin Lowe allegedly said members of the school's marching band were 'faggot dancing on the football field.'

Lowe also told the Post that Bowie State "was not going to be a place for everybody" and that parents who were not happy with him might want to take students elsewhere.

The university president sparked controversy when he made rules for the band to restrict practice hours, bar first-year student members from overnight trips and limit membership to Bowie students.

Lowe made the remarks referring to terrorists after the band director decided to forgo the halftime show on the field at a home football game Sept. 22, saying he did not have enough time to redesign the show to be appropriate to the environment after the terrorist attacks.

"That whole Sept. 11 stuff was still on my mind quite a bit, it affected the country and my students," Lowe told the Post. "I was talking about people deciding they'd like to have it this way or destroy it. That's the ... remarks I kind of regret."

Lowe also apologized for making the remarks at a campus rally Nov. 7, at which 350 students and several parents protested his presidency.

"The [Post] said he apologized, but I never heard an apology from him. No one heard him apologize," Martin-Gross said. "We asked for an apology [from the beginning]. What's the point of apologizing now?"

Martin-Gross said she plans to write a follow-up letter to Lowe.

"This isn't a closed issue with me," she said. "The administration has started a focus group, but a focus group cannot fix his attitude."

Lowe, who has been president of the university since May 2000, has been criticized for spending $184,846 to renovate his suite of offices, replacing a number of longtime administrators, eliminating December graduations, canceling campus parties, and seeking to rein in fraternities.

In addition to the derogatory remarks, Lowe is being accused of not caring for students' safety on campus and not taking care of various campus issues.

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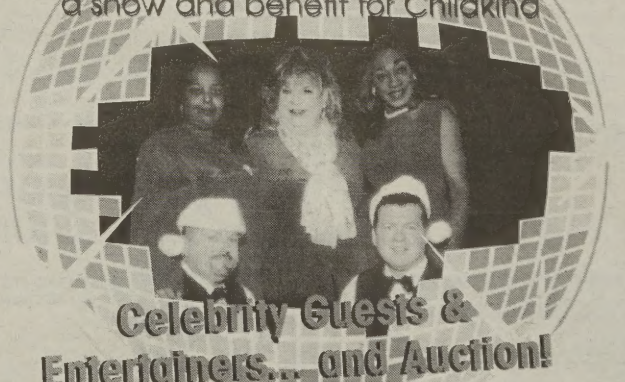

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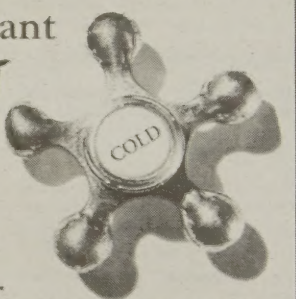

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EDITORIAL

Take a well-deserved bow, gay Atlanta

No coziness in our community

by CHRIS CRAIN

Confounding the pundits and the pollsters, Cathy Woolard pulled off the upset of this year's city elections, taking the race for City Council president by an impressive 10-point margin, and in the process beating the political machine that has elected Atlanta's last four mayors.

In the process, Woolard ensured that her middle name will remain "openly gay" for at least the time being, since her election was an historic one for Atlanta, the state of Georgia, and the South at-large. It's the first time south of the Mason-Dixon line that an openly gay candidate has won such an important post, and from such a large jurisdiction.

For all that, Woolard and her supporters should be very proud. She has a record of overcoming the odds and conventional wisdom, ever since she defeated a 20-year incumbent to gain a Council position in her very first run for office. At the time, she was the first and only openly gay candidate ever to win office in the city or the state.

Now that Cathy Woolard beat Atlanta's political machine, is the city ready for a gay mayor?

Now at the end of her rookie term just four years later, she has successfully won citywide office and the presidency of the Council, beating in the runoff a popular politician with a civil rights pedigree that usually guarantees victory around these parts.

But Woolard isn't the only one deserving kudos. She has stopped short of saying it, and her lesbian pollster and top political strategists won't say it either, but gay Atlanta elected Cathy Woolard.

At a press conference the day after her surprise victory, Woolard told the local media that she didn't see her election as one between competing identity categories: her sexual orientation (and, to a lesser extent, gender) vs. her opponent's race.

"I don't think people were picking a demographic as much as they were picking a council president," she said.

True enough. Cathy Woolard was an attractive candidate, smart and tough in battles with City Hall and even within the gay community. She has been effective and independent, two qualities that won endorsements from the city's major media and the support of many Atlantans weary of scandal, corruption and malaise.

It's also true that gay votes alone did not elect her. Even still, gay Atlanta elected Cathy Woolard. We ran her campaign, from the top down, we provided a sizable chunk of her funding, and the lopsided vote in gay-identified districts helped provide her margin of victory. (See related story, Atlanta section, page 6).

On Election Night, her victory celebration at Tully's in Midtown did not reflect the diverse constituency that some have credited with her election. It was a big gay party, with a smattering of heterosexuals along for the ride. We have propelled one of our own to higher office, and for that, we should be proud.

So in case you don't hear it anywhere else, congratulations gay Atlanta.

Is 'Mayor Woolard' next?

Woolard's surprise victory redefined politics as usual in the city of Atlanta. Even before the runoff, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution had cast the race as one pitting "old Atlanta," and the African-American, civil rights establishment of former mayors Andrew Young and Maynard Jackson, against insurgent gay Atlanta, the political maturity of the female vote, and the reverse white-flight of recent years.

The City Council presidency has long been the launching pad for mayoral runs, though the last two attempts fell short, including Robb Pitts' loss on Nov. 6. But Woolard can succeed where Pitts and Marvin Arrington failed before her if she spends the next (presumably) eight years reaching out to south Atlanta and the African-American voting base that backed her opponent.

That doesn't necessarily mean cozying up to the Young/Jackson camp, though that couldn't hurt. But Woolard was benefited in her runoff by low turnout, with no mayoral race on the ballot, and it will take a broader constituency to take the big prize in 2009.

Gay Atlanta can still play an important role here. Time and again, opportunities like this arise for the city's sizable African-American gay population to play an important "bridge" role — educating white gay Atlantans on issues important to black Atlantans, and breaking down the walls of prejudice so that black Atlanta no longer views gays (of either race) as such a threat.

To date, black gay Atlantans as a whole have been unable to emerge from their own closet to flex their political muscle, but perhaps the years ahead will change that, impacting the city in ways far more important even than Woolard's political future.

If the four years since Woolard's first election are any indication, the gay community has a much different relationship with its politicians than the mythic bond that so often enables many black voters to willfully ignore the foibles of African-American public officials.

For the most part, that's a good thing. We demand a lot of our leaders, and they expect a lot back. That is how it should be.

The downside is that things can get personal, as in the ongoing "family feud" between Georgia Equality and the Georgia Stonewall Democrats.

In the latest chapter, GE's board co-chair asserts, in a letter to the editor on the facing page, that her organization does not withhold information from gay voters in races where the group does endorsements. This is the same Georgia Equality that told voters in House District 47 that the group's endorsement was the easiest ever, without even letting on that the non-endorsed candidate was gay. Perhaps with the imminent leadership change at GE, the group will leave behind the whisper campaigns and backdoor deals of its past.

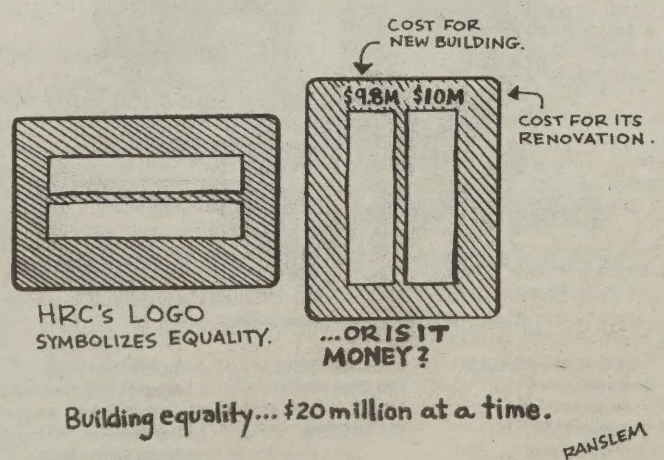
Then there's the gay candidate that GE didn't endorse in House District 47. Bob Whitelaw, a prominent leader in Stonewall Democrats, locally and nationally, poured tens of thousands of his own money into the race, only to claim just 30 percent of the vote.

After the loss, Whitelaw took a pretty broad swipe at those who didn't support him. "The results show we as gay people do not truly believe we should have equal rights," he said in an interview with this paper.

The results show nothing of the kind, and the hubris in Whitelaw's reaction may do more to explain his loss than anything else.

GE never explained why Whitelaw didn't get its endorsement, but whispered privately that his loose lips too often offend. Perhaps the next time Whitelaw decides to invest so much of his own money toward winning public office, he'll keep his tongue in check, and out of his cheek.

Chris Crain is executive editor of Southern Voice and can be reached at ccrain@sovo.com.



LETTERS

No personality politics behind GE endorsements

To the Editor:

Now that the elections are over, I want to respond to the latest tempest in Chris Crain's teapot: his editorial about Georgia Equality's endorsements in the Nov. 23 issue of Southern Voice.

I probably would not have been aware of these criticisms of Georgia Equality except that just before the election runoff, I received several copies of an e-mail message from "equalitygeorgia@mindspring.com," quoting Crain's complaints and adding some serious, totally unsubstantiated allegations against Georgia Equality.

Of course, there is no organization called Equality Georgia. Someone just wanted to con people into reading the message smearing Georgia Equality's name, and was too cowardly to use a name.

I mention this e-mail misinformation campaign because it is an example of the kind of back-biting that Crain condemns in his editorial. I agree that such behavior serves absolutely no useful purpose.

It is all the more disappointing, then, that Crain engages in it himself by repeating gossip and hurling accusations of his own when in fact, all that has really happened is that Georgia Equality has disagreed with Southern Voice and other local gay groups about which candidates to endorse.

Crain himself acknowledges that there is room in our community for political debate and disagreement. It is unclear then, what he thinks Georgia Equality should do differently.

Nor does Crain's demand that Georgia Equality "explain their anti-gay endorsements" make much sense. The statement is disingenuous at best: it implies that endorsing someone who is not gay amounts to endorsing an anti-gay candidate.

And this confusion aside, it is hard to believe that Crain would really want Georgia Equality to make public any negative information about gay candidates the organization fails to endorse. How would besmirching gay candidates' names serve the community?

Overall, Crain's comments leave the impression that Georgia Equality engages in personality politics and refuses to disclose information to which gay voters deserves access. Nothing could be further from the truth.

There is no conspiracy afloat, and no mystery to Georgia Equality's endorsement process. This process is a matter of public record, and is open to anyone who wants to participate in it by volunteering to serve on one or more of the committees that interview candidates and determine endorsements.

If you disagree with Georgia Equality about anything, go ahead and criticize — it is your right — but please do not stop there. Get involved and help make this the organization you want it to be. Give of your time, your energy, and of course, your money.

If we all work together as organizations and as individuals, we can win full legal and social equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered Georgians. And in the end, that's what it's all about.

I think we can all agree on that.

Saralyn Chesnut, co-chair
Georgia Equality Board of Directors

Send the editor your letters (400 words maximum) or op-ed submissions (800 words maximum). Names may be withheld upon request, but submissions must include a name and phone number for verification.
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Partner of 'Survivor' champ straightens out the facts

To the Editor:

Recently, I was in Washington, D.C., and I picked up a copy of your very attractive newspaper, Southern Voice.

Flipping through the pages, I stopped to look at a photo of Brandon Quinton, the "Survivor" contestant, who I think is quite cute — even though I'm in the minority on that one.

Reading Brandon's quotation in "Quote/unquote" (Nov. 26), I was surprised to see your paper printed his inaccurate description of "Survivor's" Richard Hatch.

Rich, in fact, is my partner and we live together in Middletown, R.I. Let me straighten a few things out: Rich is 40 years old, not 50 like Brandon said. Also, Brandon is wrong in saying Rich "retired" from the military; he simply quit West Point when he was a cadet.

Thanks for the opportunity to correct this.

Mark Ranslem
Middletown, R.I.

Sexual repression doesn't fly planes into buildings

To the Editor:

After reading "The repressed sexual rage behind Islamic terror" (op-ed, Nov. 9), I have to give Southern Voice the big "whatever" sign.

Islamic terrorists fly planes into buildings killing thousands of people because they are sexually repressed? If that were true, no person would be safe from Southern Baptists.

Surely the editors can find more interesting articles than one from a Ph.D. in Soviet History expounding on the psychology of sexual repression in Islamic culture.

The next time you need an "expert" in psychology to offer useless psychobabble, perhaps you should call Dr. Laura. At least her Ph.D. in physiology sounds a little like psychology.

Michael Boykin
Atlanta

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel

THE ROLE MODEL
HI, EVERYONE!
12/5
378
©2001 BY ALISON BECHDEL
WHO'S THAT?
AN AGGRESSIVE JEHOVAH'S WITNESS?
SHE KINDA REMINDS ME OF SOMEONE...
HI! I'M LAURA BUSH. I'VE BEEN DOING A LITTLE RESEARCH HERE!
OKAY, SO I HAVEN'T BEEN AROUND MUCH.
BUT I WILL BE FROM NOW ON.
OH? WHAT ABOUT YOUR NEW INSTANT FAMILY?
HAVE YOU HEARD OF THE TALIBAN?
GOD, I NEED A TIME-OUT. I RUSHED INTO THINGS WITH JASMINE WAY TOO FAST.
RIGHT. SIX MONTHS BETWEEN MEETING HER AND ASKING HER OUT. I'M SURPRISED THERE WASN'T A SONIC BOOM.
foof
YEAH, BUT THEN JUST AS WE WERE STARTING TO GET INVOLVED, THE ATTACKS HAPPENED. I MEAN, TALK ABOUT EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES!
DID YOU KNOW THEY'VE BEEN BRUTALLY VIOLATING WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS?
DID I HAVE REAL FEELINGS FOR HER OR WAS I JUST CLINGING IN SHEER TERROR TO THE NEAREST PERSON AT HAND?
LET'S PUT A STOP TO IT! AND WHILE WE'RE AT IT, HOW ABOUT THAT SAUDI ARABIA?
SO. YOU ESCAPED YOUR ANXIETY ABOUT THE WORLD BY RUNNING TO JASMINE. AND NOW YOU'RE ESCAPING YOUR FEAR OF INTIMACY BY RUNNING BACK HERE?
WOMEN ARE MISERABLY OPPRESSED THERE, TOO! SO WHAT IF THEY HAVE A LOT OF OIL?
YOU CAN'T PLAY AROUND WITH PEOPLE LIKE THAT, GINGER. ESPECIALLY WHEN THERE'S A CHILD INVOLVED!
I KNOW THAT! THAT'S WHY I DON'T WANT TO GO ANY FURTHER UNTIL I'M SURE IT'S RIGHT! I DON'T WANT TO SCREW THINGS UP FOR JONAH. GOD KNOWS, HE'S GOT ENOUGH TROUBLES!
DING DONG
I SAY WE GO IN THERE AND - GAK!
HE WANTS TO BE A GIRL, SCHOOL'S TORTURE FOR HIM. HE'S BEEN TO SEE THAT HARRY POTTER MOVIE TEN TIMES ALREADY. THE KID LIVES IN AN ESCAPIST FANTASY.
CLICK
JAS-MINE?!
GINGER, I'M SORRY, BUT LETITIA HAD SOME KIND OF FAMILY EMERGENCY AND JUST DROPPED HIM OFF AT THE RESTAURANT AND I COULDN'T FIND ANYONE ELSE ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE AND I HAVE TO GET BACK TO WORK. I'LL PICK HIM UP AT TEN!
WELL, LOOK! IT'S HARRY POTTER!
I'M HERMIONE. HONESTLY, HAGRID, YOU CAN BE SUCH A DOLT.

SLOUCHING THROUGH SODOM

When man's best friend comes out of the kennel

by MICHAEL ALVEAR

My dog is a fag. There's just no other way to put it. Zack, my 3-year-old vizsla, is the girliest male dog I've ever seen. He crosses his paws at the ankles instead of the knees, he barks with a lisp and he only sniffs boy butt.

It wouldn't be so bad if Zack *looked* like a gay dog. You know, like a French poodle, or a Bichon Frise, the kind of four-legged queen you dress up like a girl whether it's a girl or not.

But Zack doesn't look like the kind of dog you'd hang berets on. He's a 60-pound hunting dog, for God's sakes. A guy's kind of dog.

Like any parent of a sissy, I hoped no one would notice. But then my sister Cindy outed him. "He is *not* gay," I told her when she confided that she'd never seen a gay dog before. "Who are you kidding?" she pointed at him. "Look at the way he walks!"

It's true. My hunting dog doesn't walk; he prances.

I don't understand how I got stuck with an effeminate dog. I tried to de-gay him but nothing works. Every time he crosses his paws he looks like Noel Coward waiting for someone to light his cigarette. So I go over and uncross them. "Bad dog! Femme dog!" I scold him. But as soon as I turn my back he crosses them again.

It makes me wonder where I went wrong. Did I smother him too much when he was a puppy? Was I too distant? I think it really comes down to the nature or nurture question. Does effeminacy in male dogs occur naturally or does it come out as a response to their self-loathing owners?

Whether Zack was born with the desire to walk like Cher or whether he picked it up from his owner's ex-boyfriend, I'll never know. All I know is that this isn't the lifestyle I would have picked for him.

My other dog is no consolation either. She's a lesbo from the word go-go. At first, I thought her lesbianism was cute. But then she got militant on me.

Zoey is a black Labrador Retriever who hasn't retrieved anything for me except headaches. "I refuse to fetch anything for the patriarchy," she once scratched out in her dinner bowl. How she managed to ball up her paw into a fist and wave it at me is a mystery.

I knew Zoey was a dyke the day I came home with a bunch of handkerchiefs. She refused to let me tie them on her. Except the ugly one. That one she wore every day.

Dinner is the best time to see the juxtaposition of Zack's girliness and Zoey's mannishness. Zoey chows down and barks for a beer. Zack picks at his food and wonders if a little coriander wouldn't take the edge off the kibble.

Whenever my sister comes over to my apartment the first thing she says is "Hi, girls!" It's unclear whether I'm included in the greeting, but that's not the point. The point is that she simply assumes Zack is gay and feels free to take liberties with the correct pronouns.

As hard as it's been, I've learned to cultivate pride in a retriever who won't retrieve anything until I grow tits and a tight box. As hard as it's been, I've learned to brag about a nelly, swishy dog that can't bark without a purse falling out of his mouth.

It took me a while, but today I really don't give a damn who sees my dyke dog swagger or my girlie-boy prance. We're a family and shame is not a family value.

Michael Alvear lives in Atlanta and can be reached at michaelalvear@mediaone.net

When my girlie-boy vizsla crosses his paws he looks like Noel Coward waiting for someone to light his cigarette, so I go over and uncross them. 'Bad dog! Femme dog!'

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VIEWPOINT

Afghan women offer the only sane refuge in war

by JUDY GERBER

As the weeks of war drag on, it doesn't take much to be sick over what this country has unleashed on the people of Afghanistan. Granted, I had no desire to see the Taliban's rule continue or Al-Qaeda to run amok, but the Northern Alliance is no improvement, nor is the U.S. Marines.

With each new report about executions, chaos, dead civilians and journalists, I find it harder to deal with the fact there aren't really any supportable sides in this war — neither Bush, nor Bin Laden, the Taliban or Northern Alliance.

Except the women. Leave it to the women to find the voice of sanity. Last month I had an opportunity to talk with Tahmeena Faryal (not her real name), one of the international representatives of the Revolutionary Association of Women of Afghanistan. She was in the U.S. for a speaking tour and some diplomatic work at the U.S. State Department.

Faryal said RAWA condemns the Sept. 11 attacks, the Taliban and Al-Qaeda. She also said that the people who fled Kabul since then are more afraid of the Northern Alliance taking power than they are scared by the U.S. bombing. RAWA women think the Northern Alliance "will horribly intensify the ethnic and religious conflicts … in order to retain power."

They cite reports of the execution of captured Taliban fighters in Mazar-e-Sharif as proof, not to mention the Northern Alliance's track record when factions of the group controlled the country from 1992-1996.

When the United States and other countries created and supported these fundamentalists, declared Faryal, "from the very beginning, they were misogynist, they were anti-civilization, they were dependent on foreign powers, they were terrorists even before taking power in Afghanistan."

RAWA, which started in the mid-1970's to fight domestic violence, also actively opposed the Soviet occupation. But then the United States backed fundamentalist groups to drive the Russians out in 1992 and, Faryal explained, "These jihadis were worse than the Soviets. From 1992-1996, many atrocities were committed against women, … and then the Taliban made the restrictions official."

Faryal said that prior to 1992, women in Afghanistan were making progress. In the cities, women were 40 percent of the doctors and 50 percent of the teachers. But when the fundamentalists took control, there were "so many rapes, forced marriages, abductions, women didn't feel safe going to school or work."

Under fundamentalist repression, RAWA works clandestinely to provide health care and education. Women teach classes in their homes. "Entire villages have gotten their education from RAWA women," Faryal said.

RAWA, Faryal said, is the only women's organization still based in Afghanistan and the refugee camps in Pakistan willing to speak out against the jihadis that has relationships with feminists around the world.

"RAWA is a feminist organization, but the agenda we have to address is very different from what western feminists have to address," Faryal said. "For example feminists in these countries have to struggle for abortion or equal pay for equal work. We in Afghanistan have to struggle first of all to be recognized as human beings."

When it comes to issues of sexuality, Faryal won't even discuss it because any issues of sexuality are completely taboo and she could potentially risk death for just talking about homosexuality.

According to news on the RAWA Web site, there have been reports of "toppling the wall" on men suspected of homosexual acts. Toppling the wall was one of the Taliban's methods of execution — burying people alive by collapsing a brick wall on them.

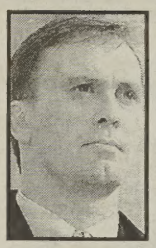
Lesbianism is not recognized as existing in the country, but RAWA seems to make reference to it on its Web site, albeit obliquely. In RAWA's Web list of plans for future social activities, its sixth and last point states:

"We are aware of those women in our closed society who have their own sex preferences, but due to severe social and religious suppression, they live a tortured life. Thus we will publish magazines which such taboo subjects can be discussed in them. Those women may express themselves freely, and gradually, society comes to the conclusion that it should no longer ignore such a large community who have no other 'sin' but want to live as they are and love."

The Internet has been a key method of communication with the outside world for RAWA. Faryal wants everyone to visit their Web site, www.rawa.org, to find news about Afghanistan and to learn about the struggle for women's rights in her country.

That's where I go when I'm feeling bummed about all those unsupportable men with guns out there on all sides of this conflict.

Judy Gerber is a San Francisco-based freelance writer and can be reached through this publication.



VIEWPOINT

Your tax dollars hard at work against you

by MICHAEL ADAMS

We can thank the Salvation Army for putting the Bush administration's so-called "faith-based initiative" on gay activists' radar screen last summer.

It was then that we learned that the "Army" was promising to support the Bush plan if the administration would in return enact a regulation giving religious groups receiving public funds carte blanche to ignore local laws prohibiting employment discrimination against gay people. So in a perverse way, perhaps we should be grateful to our bell-ringing friends for waking us up to the fact that the "faith-based initiative" could result in our own tax dollars being used to pay for employment discrimination against us.

At the same time, we must remember that we have more at stake in the "faith-based initiative" than fairness in the workplace. In fact, much more central to the debate is the question of how government-funded services are going to be delivered in this country.

What makes the Bush plan different is that it seeks to change the rules to allow religious groups to use government funding to proselytize, and we know from experience that religious moralizing is often hostile to gays. Historically, religious groups have been required to abide by the same rules as every other government contractor. In return for public dollars, they've agreed not to discriminate against their employees and not to use government money to preach.

Now, in a radical shift in federal policy, the president wants to allow churches and religious groups to receive taxpayer dollars without the strings that historically have been attached.

Even after excising language that gives tax dollars directly for anti-gay discrimination, the Bush 'faith-based initiative' allows religious groups to use government funding for moralizing hostile to gays.

Last summer the federal Centers for Disease Control announced that young African-American men who have sex with men have an annual infection rate of nearly 15 percent, and that one third of them are already infected with HIV. These numbers rival those found in sub-Saharan Africa.

At the same time they were being announced, it was revealed that the federal Department of Health & Human Services was planning on funneling millions of HIV prevention dollars for minority communities exclusively to religious groups because "these groups have access to the young people we are trying to reach." The program is being re-tooled because of political protest, but it is a warning sign of things to come.

While churches might indeed be effective at reaching some young people, most of them can't effectively reach gay youth. Even those churches that don't continue to cling to anti-gay beliefs are unlikely to be able or willing to provide the frank and open sex education that gay youth need to avoid HIV infection.

Another powerful illustration of what we have at stake is found in the controversy swirling around the Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children. KBHC is the largest provider of state-funded services to "at-risk" youth in Kentucky, receiving about two-thirds of its budget from the state. While KBHC claims that it does not discriminate against gays, it has made public statements supporting reparative therapy and announcing its belief that anybody can be "converted" to heterosexuality with prayer and counseling.

The agency's HIV education program, to the extent it exists at all, provides no information to gay youth on safer sex practices. To make sure that kids at KBHC have only Christian heterosexual role models, the agency refuses to hire gay employees and fired Alicia Pedreira when it discovered she is a lesbian. (Lambda Legal has joined an ACLU lawsuit challenging public funding of KBHC.)

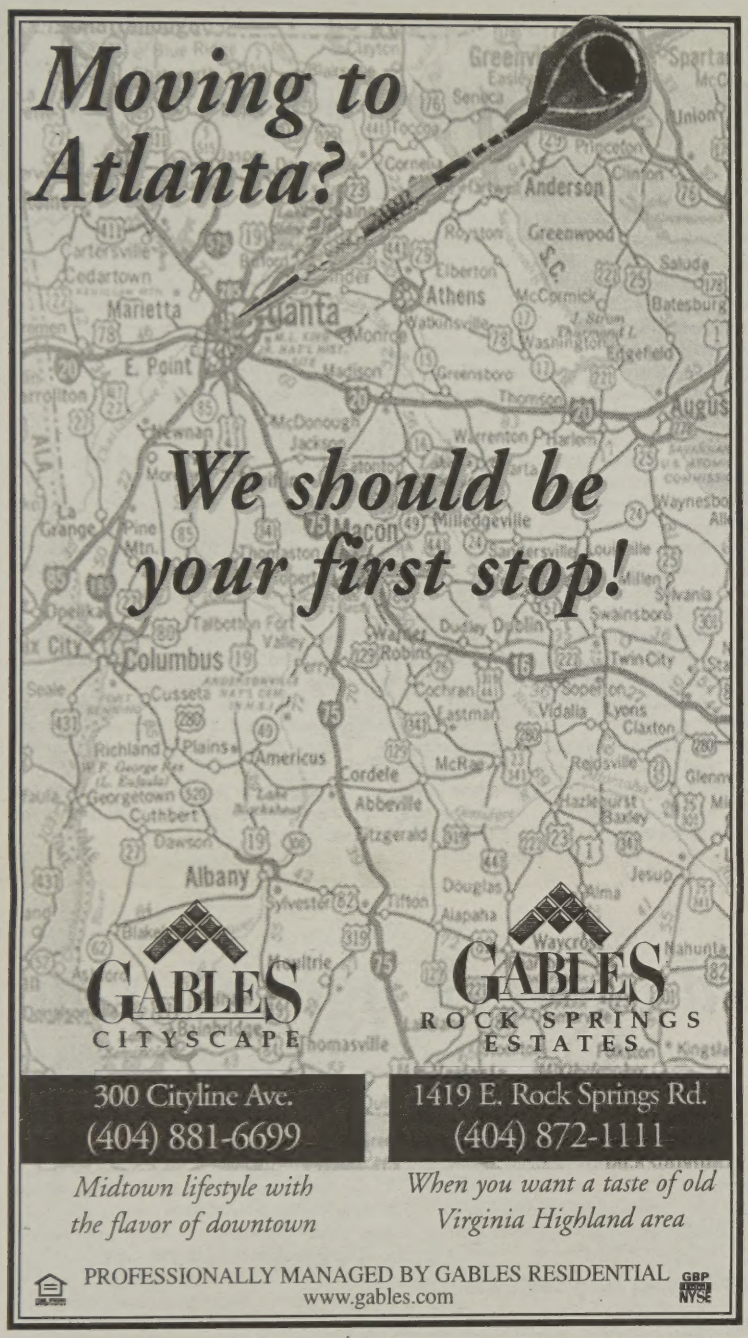
And KBHC is not unique, as became evident earlier this month when news broke that a publicly-funded Methodist children's home is following strikingly similar practices.

Nor can we forget about the employment discrimination issue that the Salvation Army brought to our attention. While it is heartening to see that language in earlier versions of the Bush plan that practically invited religious groups to use public dollars to discriminate has been eliminated, that doesn't end the workplace fairness problem.

If religious groups take over publicly funded jobs and are not required to maintain a discrimination-free workplace in return for receiving taxpayer dollars, we will lose ground in our fight for equal treatment in employment.

To be fair to all Americans — including lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgendered Americans — tax dollars must go only to organizations that will provide all clients with appropriate services, not religious moralizing, and that will treat all employees fairly.

Michael Adams is the deputy legal director of the Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund and can be reached at lambdalegal@lambdalegal.org.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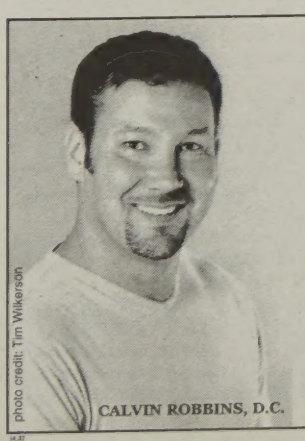

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action! alert

by ANDREW KEEGAN

Catholics want lies to stop

But ad calling tolerance comes as church leaders continue to rally against gays

AP
CALLING ALL CHRISTIANS, JEWS AND MUSLIMS
There is too much Catholic bashing in this country, too much anti-Semitism and too much bigotry aimed at Muslims.
· The lie that Catholicism is repressive must end.
· The lie that Zionism is racism must end.
· The lie that Islam is barbaric must end.
Catholic League

While the Catholic League for Religious & Civil Rights was running an ad in the New York Times calling for an end to 'Catholic bashing,' the Pope was bashing gay unions in a speech in Italy.

An ad placed in the New York Times last week comparing "Catholic bashing" to both anti-Semitism and the recent bigotry aimed at Muslims in light of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks is "purely opportunistic" because the church itself represses gays, according to a gay Catholic group.

"The Catholic Church does a number of things to repress gays," said Marianne Duddy, executive director for Dignity USA, the nation's largest gay Catholic group.

The ad from the Catholic League for Religious & Civil Rights — which states "The lie that Catholicism is repressive must end" — was placed as Pope John Paul II condemned same-sex couples before an Italian congress on family issues.

Two weeks ago, the pope called for members of the Catholic Church to fight gay and lesbian unions because they threaten the "traditional family institution."

While the Catholic Church does not teach that homosexual orientation is sinful, it does argue the sexual activity between people of the same gender is an intrinsic moral evil.

The current pontiff has repeatedly denounced gays, even condemning World Pride Roma 2000, a 10-day festival for gay Italians.

The pope slammed the event as an "offense to Christian values," stating, "Homosexual acts are contrary to the laws of nature."

In a special service last month, the pope accepted the helmet of Mychal Judge, the gay priest killed in the Sept. 11 attacks, but did not acknowledge Judge's sexual orientation.

The Catholic League, founded in 1973, works to safeguard the religious freedom and free speech rights of Catholics, according to the group's Web site. And the organization has done so by taking a cue from gay activists, often portraying the league as a target of hate speech.

When Soulforce, a Christian group that seeks to change Christian teaching on gays, disrupted a meeting of Catholic bishops in Chicago last year, the Catholic League said that "to disrupt religious services in a house of worship is the kind of thing that Nazis made famous."

In an effort to combat bigotry, the recent newspaper ad suggests that Jews, Muslims and Christians erect nativity scenes, menorahs and other symbolic holiday images on private and public property in a show of unity.

When reached for comment about the advertisement, William Donohue, president of the Catholic League, refused to discuss the issue. A spokesperson said, "The ad will stand on its own and that's the only thing we have to say on the subject."

Officials with Dignity USA criticized the Catholic League's ad as taking advantage of a national tragedy.

"The ad was opportunistic, distasteful and disrespectful," Duddy said. "It's trivial to compare the struggle that some Muslims are currently facing in our country and worldwide with fairly insignificant instances of discrimination against Catholics."

The Catholic League has a history of downplaying the power the Catholic Church has in society, Duddy said. But in Massachusetts, it has backed a ballot measure that would outlaw gay unions and eliminate existing domestic partner benefits, she said.

Sponsors of the bill were allowed to gather signatures for the ballot measure at parishes throughout the state, Duddy said.

"Catholic bishops understand the power of the church, yet fail recognize that a church should not be about discrimination," she said.

Church doctrine also limits prevention campaigns aimed at stopping AIDS, Duddy said.

ACTION! info

Catholic League
William Donohue, president
450 Seventh Ave.
New York, NY 10123
212-371-3191
www.catholicleague.org

Dignity USA
1500 Mass. Ave. NW
Suite #11
Washington, DC 20005-1894
800-877-8797
e-mail: dignity@aol.com

"quote/unquote"

compiled by REX WOCKNER and staff reports

Divine

"Everybody was making money off my son's life and I thought: 'Here I am, I need money. Why don't I do a book and tell the truth? There are a lot of things that I have read that are not true. I'm gonna write the truth.' And that's what I did."

—Frances Milstead, mother of the late Divine, to Chicago's Windy City Times, Nov. 14. "My Son Divine" is in stores now.

"I'm 100 percent gay and about 20 percent in gay society. Sometimes I'm more comfortable in punk rock clubs than gay clubs. There are just as many rules I rebel from in the gay world as the straight one. I'm gaily incorrect, but I do vote gay."

—Filmmaker John Waters to Out magazine, December issue

"In the last few years, the turkey baster has become more popular than Xena, Warrior Princess among the lesbian elite."

—New York Post, Nov. 21

"We always get a little kiss — it's cute. We make him laugh. If I tell him to finish his juice or get home early tonight, he calls me 'mother.'"

—Howard Koeppel on his roommate, New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, as reported by the New York Post, Nov. 25. Giuliani has been living with Koeppel and his lover since the mayor broke up with his wife and moved out of the Gracie Mansion last year.

"The far gay left is one of the most virulent hate-groups in the country. Tolerated by much of the gay media and beyond, their hate-filled and near-violent tactics are often ignored or tolerated by other gay men and women and liberal straights who should know better."

—Gay writer Andrew Sullivan on his Web site Nov. 26, in reference to www.usqueers.com, which contains a list of vociferiously anti-gay public figures that the site says it wishes would die.

Olivia Newton-John

"[Olivia Newton-John] thinks the mistaken idea that she is a lesbian was born in the 1970s, when she sang her hit song, 'I Honestly Love You,' on 'The Tonight Show' on U.S. television. When the show's legendary host, Johnny Carson, asked her if she had more girlfriends or boyfriends, she answered 'girlfriends' (meaning 'female friends,' not 'lovers,' she says) — eliciting a raised eyebrow from Carson."

—The British national lesbian magazine Diva, August issue

"The rumour kept coming back to me, and I kept wondering, 'Why are they saying this about me?' That's the only thing that we could ever put our fingers on. As if anyone would ever say anything like that on 'The Tonight Show!' Let alone *me*, for crying out loud!'"

—Olivia Newton-John, in Diva, August issue.

"I question whether Anne [Heche] should have put her past relationship with Ellen [DeGeneres] back out for public comment in the way that she has with her book. Ellen deserves her privacy. [However,] the Anne I know was always honest in her relationship with the gay and lesbian community. ... This newfound public ridicule of her is beneath the Advocate and the community."

—Hillary Rosen, president of Recording Industry Association of America to the Advocate, Dec. 4. Rosen's spouse is Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign.

Sir Ian McKellen and Margaret Thatcher

"I'll always be glad I was offered it [my knighthood] after I'd come out, and Maggie knew she was giving it to an openly gay man, not a species she is renowned for favoring."

—Actor Sir Ian McKellen to ananova.com, Nov. 20, on conservative British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher

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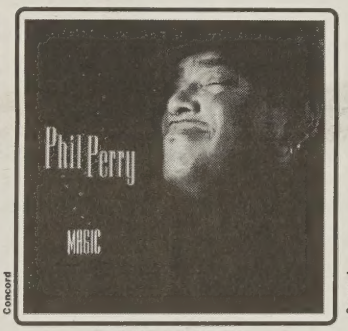

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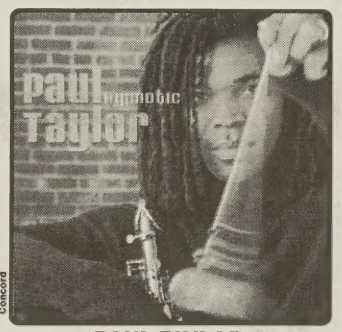

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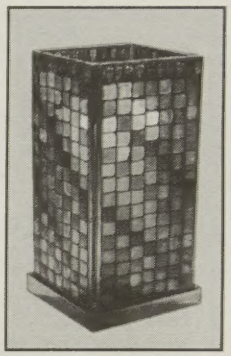

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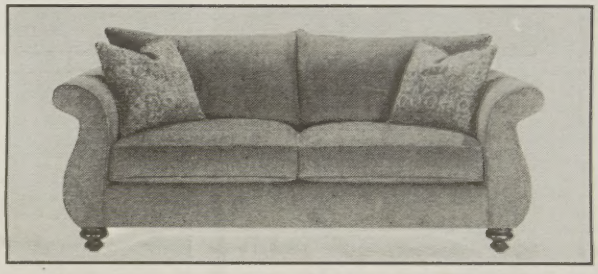

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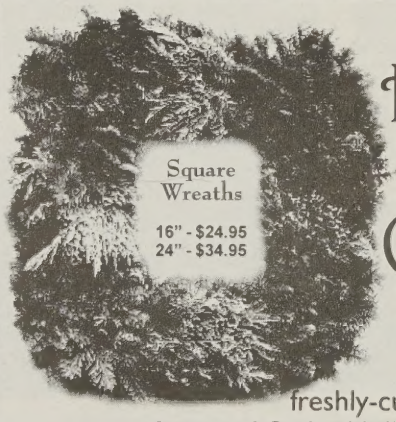

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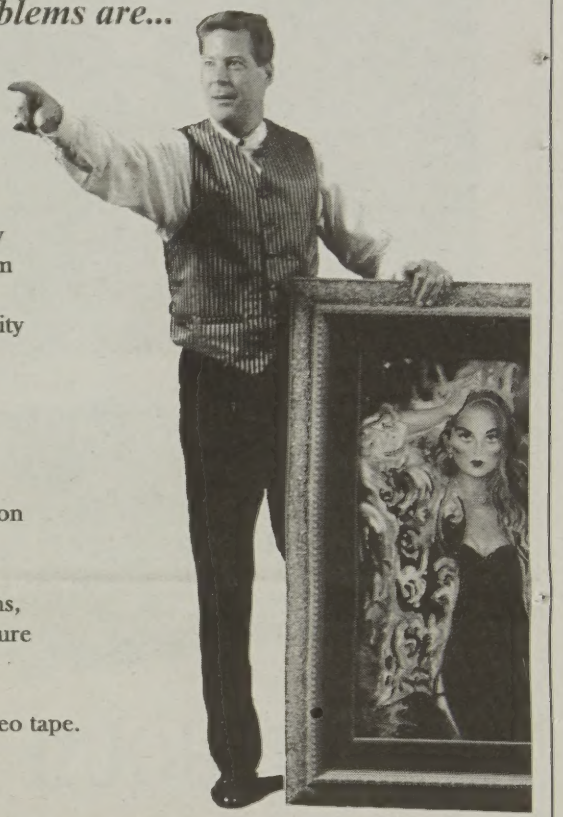

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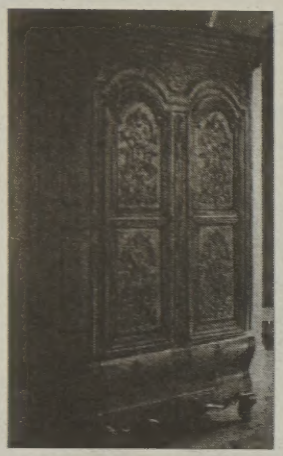

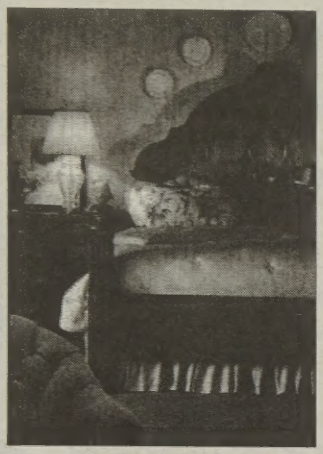

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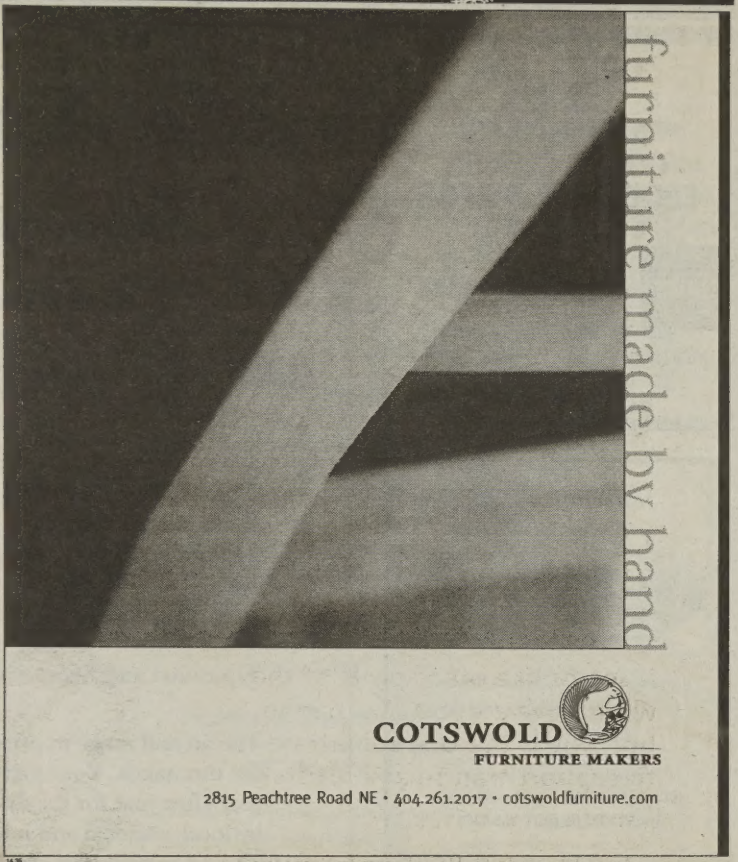

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SoVo Living

Taking Pride in Our Culture • December 7/2001

Tranny Girls in world pop culture

Harisu Ha (left), Amanda Lear (right) and Dana International (center): Why doesn't the U.S. have similar performers?

It seems like other parts of the world *love* a good sex change, but why is the U.S. still afraid to support transsexual artists?

by STON SEIBER and ZTEVEN COX

Around the world, the U.S. is known for its moderate politics as well as its innovative entertainment culture.

In films, television and on the theatrical stage, gay and lesbian characters and even openly gay actors aren't the rarity they once were.

The trans community, however, is distinctly less represented in American culture. In 50 years of network TV, there's been only one regular transsexual character.

Woman-born-woman actress Helen Shaver plays the part of transsexual Erica on the new CBS series "The Education of Max Bickford."

"It's an enviable role. In most shows a transgendered character is usually a joke, a walk through or is there for sweeps month," Shaver says.

"In real life there are transgendered individuals who look all types of different ways — they pass through life and nobody knows. When most folks think of a transgender, they think of a man in a dress, it's actually quite stereotypical."

Shaver's take on transgendered individuals and the way they are viewed by the public at large is an accurate take on American sentiment, says Kate Bornstein, a trans performance artist and author of "My Gender Workbook."

"It's accepted in some other cultures because they have a history of gender-bending," says Bornstein. "You have to think of who founded our country and you have your answer.

"There's just not a history of it here and people aren't encouraged to step out of the standard gender roles very often. In drag, RuPaul has done some great things, but he's still a man playing a woman — or playing the clown."

Jessica Xavier is the director of services at the Whitman Walker Clinic in Washington, D.C. She's also a singer and transgendered woman who describes her work as "pop and rock." She echoes Bornstein's thoughts and explains why such performers often fare better in other parts of the world.

"There are some major cultural differences here than in Europe and parts of the Asian world," says Xavier. "It's not so sex-phobic in Europe, and Asian cultures have a history with cross-dressing — it's still very sex phobic in the U.S."

That doesn't seem to be the case in Europe, Asia and — curiously enough — Israel, where a few post-operative male-to-female transsexuals have risen to the top of the entertainment industry on a song and a pretty face.

Harisu Ha

Born in 1975, Harisu Ha underwent hormone therapy while still in high school — gender reassignment followed in 1998. Now 26, Ha is currently the focus of a media frenzy in South Korea.

Her trip into the limelight kicked into high gear with the release of her debut album "Temptation" this past September.

Now Ha is everywhere. Television talk shows can't get enough of the sex symbol. She's in music videos, ads for makeup and wedding gowns and even in prime film roles.

Despite an air play ban because of sexually-charged lyrics, the title single from the CD has surged to the top of the charts amidst the controversy.

"I think the society and culture is changing in Korea and it should change," Ha says in an Associated Press interview. "Transsexuals haven't killed or cheated anyone. Why should they be mistreated when they haven't done anything wrong to others?"

Ha's statement indicates that the political mindset of the Korean trans community is clearly not as radical and defined as her American counterparts. Still, the mainstream acceptance from her society at large is much more embracing.

Jeon Dong-ki, a male university student in Korea, disagrees.

"I think she is popular because of her charm and looks," he says. "It doesn't mean that people's prejudices against gays and transsexuals have changed as well."

Whatever the root of Ha's popularity may be, she has still attained significant status in a traditionally conservative culture, despite the odds. (www.cliphoto.com/social/harisu.htm)

➢ Continued on Page 34

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ATLANTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
ROBERT SPANO, Music Director

film clips

Anaïs Reboux plays Anaïs and Roxane Mesquida stars as Elena in the controversial Italian film 'Fat Girl.'

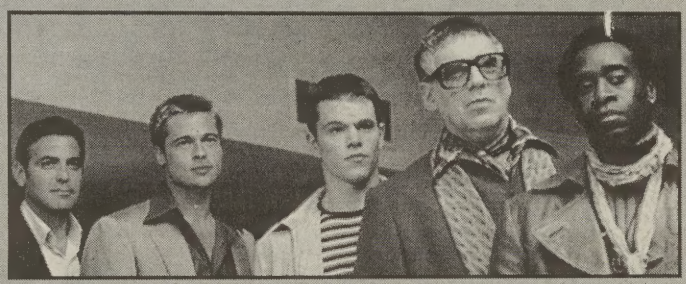
FAT GIRL Catherine Breillat's intense, banned-in-Toronto drama follows a plus-size adolescent trying to keep pace with her sexually active older sister. Disturbingly violent. Area Theaters.

THE MAN WHO WASN'T THERE Noirish epic from the Coen brothers set in post-war America — full of blackmail, foul play, chain smoking and some gay undertones from James Gandolfini. Jon Polito plays a gay man. Stars Billy Bob Thornton. Area theaters.

OCEAN'S ELEVEN Steven Soderbergh (who has produced a few gay-themed efforts over the years) directs this new version of the 1960 "Rat Pack" caper flick about robbing several Vegas casinos at once. Includes a role for Elliot Gould as a fey gay man, along with George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Julia Roberts, Matt Damon and Don Cheadle. Area Theaters.

MULHOLLAND DRIVE A surreal David Lynch film, set in Los Angeles, that tells the story of lesbian lovers, one of whom has lost her memory. Area theaters.

ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW Every Friday at midnight. Atlanta (LeFont Plaza, 1049 Ponce de Leon Ave. 404-873-1939). Also Sat., midnight. Raises funds for AIDS Survival Project. Marietta, Ga. (Blackwell Theater, 3378 Canton Rd. 770-428-2617), New Orleans (615 Toulouse St. 504-565-5400).



Elliot Gould (second from right) plays a distinctly fey gay man in 'Ocean's Eleven,' along with a cast that includes George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Matt Damon and Don Cheadle.

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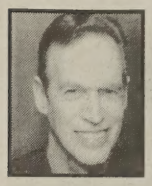

on screen

by STEVE WARREN

Swimming in an ocean of stars

New French film examines the love-hate relationship and sexual bonds between two sisters

The story of a voyeur, **FAT GIRL** ("A Ma Soeur") makes the viewer feel like a voyeur.

Canadian censors have effectively kept too it out of Ontario by refusing to rate it. Controversial French writer-director Catherine Breillat's "Romance" contained far more nudity and explicit sex, but involved older actors.

It made my Ten Worst list the year of its U.S. release, while "Fat Girl" is much closer to the other extreme.

The two sisters at the heart of the story are very different, physically and otherwise. They analyze their love-hate relationship in a lengthy conversation that's more intimate and revealing than the sexual sequences surrounding it, acknowledging their mutual hatred as they lie in bed together giggling like girls their age.

Elena (Roxane Mesquida), 15, has supermodel potential. Anais (Anais Reboux), 12, is plus-sized.

Though slutty, Elena is technically a virgin, saving herself for someone she loves. Anais wants to be broken in by "a nobody" before she finds her true love.

On vacation they meet Fernando (Libero De Rienzo), an Italian law student. He sneaks into their room and climbs into Elena's bed while Anais pretends to sleep.

Elena clings to her virginity until they compromise on rear-entry. "All the girls take it the back way, that way it doesn't count," Fernando assures her.

"Fat Girl" is decidedly minimalist in terms of structure, being made up of a very limited number of long scenes with very little between. The vacation ends abruptly and the girls' mother (Arsinee Khanjian) drives them back toward their suburban Paris home.

It's a long, uncomfortable ride. The film has a startling ending that comes from as far in left field as the giant foot at the end of the "Monty Python" credits.

In another director's hands it might be gimmicky or unsatisfying on general principles, but Breillat makes it work. A lot of things work in "Fat Girl" that shouldn't.

That's all to the filmmaker's credit, but her young actresses are good, too.

The 1960 **OCEAN'S ELEVEN**, starring Frank Sinatra's "Rat Pack," is the kind of mediocre movie that's ripe for remaking because there's so much room for improvement. This time around the audience has as much fun as the actors.

INFO

'Fat Girl'

★★★

Directed by Catherine Breillat

Starring Anais Reboux, Roxane Mesquida, Libero De Rienzo

Queer Quotient: The sisterly love never gets physical, but if the Canadian censors are correct, the young stars' nudity will appeal to some lesbians' prurient interest. Gay men will be impressed by two brief glimpses of De Rienzo's erection.

'Ocean's Eleven'

★★★

Directed by Steven Soderbergh

Starring George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Julia Roberts

Queer Quotient: Eye candy for gay men, an ambiguous pair of bickering brothers, Elliott Gould pointlessly playing a nellie queen and a cute quip from Pitt when Clooney leaves prison in a tux. In other words, not much.

"Ocean's Eleven" is director Steven Soderbergh's most commercial film yet, but if it's not "art" at least it's artfully made, the kind of movie the industry's lost the knack for making.

It's for people who love movie stars and want to see them act like movie stars, not like actors.

If anyone gets award attention for a performance here it will be Carl Reiner, who is good enough and old enough that the Academy might honor him for his career.

In the film, Danny Ocean (George Clooney) gets out of prison after four years and wants his wife back.

Tess (Julia Roberts) is now with Terry Benedict (Andy Garcia), who owns several Las Vegas casinos. Danny's elaborate scheme involves robbing three of them — the Bellagio, Mirage and MGM Grand — simultaneously.

He teams up with old pal Brad Pitt. For bankrolling they go to Elliott Gould, who has a score to settle with Benedict.

Don Cheadle handles explosives, Eddie Jemison does electronics, Bernie Mac is a dealer who can work the casino floor, Reiner is an old-school con man and circus performer Shaobo Qin can squeeze into impossibly tight places. Casey Affleck and Scott Caan are drivers known as "the Mormon Twins."

Unlike the "twins" in "Burnt Money" they really are twin brothers, but they bicker like a couple of old queens. Matt Damon is a Chicago pickpocket who has to prove himself.

Ted Griffin's screenplay provides all the information we need to follow the story, neither oversimplifying things nor overloading us with so much data that we're forced to think. Two curious choices,

BOB MARSHAK

Matt Damon and George Clooney are two of the big hitters in 'Ocean's Eleven,' the remake of the mediocre 1960 movie. Several stars give this flick plenty of eye candy.

Cheadle's Cockney accent and Gould's flamboyant gay shtick (son Jason must have served as technical consultant), are minor distractions.

Consider that an 11-way split of the $163 million robbery take nets each person less than $15 million. Some of them can earn more than that by making their own movie.

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The AIDS Research Consortium of Atlanta (ARCA) is currently enrolling HIV+ patients into a study called Merck 112. This study is for persons who are no longer doing well with the drugs Nevirapine (Viramune), Efavirenz (Sustiva), or Delaviradine (Rescriptor) in their antiretroviral regimen. Some study drugs will be provided and the study could last up to 48 weeks. As with any clinical trial, there are risks associated with approved and experimental drugs.

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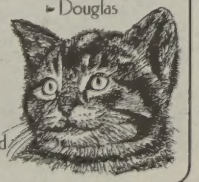

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on the air
CALENDAR

saturday dec. 8

SOAPDISH Hysterical lampoon of soap operas with Sally Field, Kevin Kline, and a surprise gay ending. (2 hrs.) Comedy Central at 1 p.m.

ABSOLUTELY FABULOUS Two classic episodes. (1 hr.) Comedy Central at 4 p.m.

CUJO While still a kid, gay actor Danny Pintauro played a scared pet owner in this movie – based on a Stephen King novel – about a St. Bernard gone mad. (2 hrs.) SciFi Channel at 5 p.m.

PERRY MASON Gay actor Raymond Burr plays the title character who solves the "Case of the Avenging Ace." (2 hrs.) Court TV at 9 p.m.

PSYCHO BEACH PARTY An ultra-gay send up of 50's beach movies by the gender illusionist and playwright Charles Busch. (1 hr. 40 mins.) The Movie Channel at 10:35 p.m. CC

BEYOND CHANCE A show about supernatural and miraculous experiences hosted by Melissa Etheridge. (1 hr.) Lifetime at 11 p.m. and weekdays at 10 a.m. CC

sunday dec. 9

EASTENDERS Two back-to-back episodes of the British soap opera, which features a gay couple among its convoluted cast. (30 min.) WETA at 1 and 1:30 p.m.

PHILADELPHIA Tom Hanks plays a saintly gay man who is fired from his job when he is revealed to have an HIV-related disease. (2 hrs. 30 mins.) TBS at 3:15 p.m.

GREASE Classic hit from openly gay director Randal Kleiser. (1 hr., 50 min.) TBS at 5:45 p.m.

GIANT An Oscar winner in 1953, this tale of a Texas oil family who deals with racial injustice stars Rock Hudson and James Dean. (3 hrs. 30 mins.) Turner Movie Classics at 2 p.m

EDUCATION OF MAX BICKFORD Erica's ex-wife returns to town unaware that Erica has undergone gender reassignment surgery. (1 hr.) CBS at 8 p.m.

LOS BELTRAN Spanish-language sitcom featuring a Gay couple as the next-door neighbors. (30 min.) Telemundo at 8 p.m.

SEX AND THE CITY As Carrie gets back together with Aiden, Samantha's lesbian relationship begins to crumble. Two episodes. (1 hr.) HBO at 9 p.m.

SEX IN OUR CENTURY A four-part documentary details the making and breaking of sexual mores in our time, including the rise in acceptance of homosexuality. (1 hr.) TLC at 9 p.m.

THE MAKING OF THE LORD OF THE RINGS See what gay actor Ian McKellan has to say about his role as Gandalf the wizard in the new film. (10 mins.) TNT at 10:50 p.m.

QUEER AS FOLK The death of his father causes Brian to reexamine his life. (50 mins.) Showtime at 10 p.m.

monday dec. 10

ALL MY CHILDREN This long-running serial now features Bianca, the Lesbian daughter of legendary Erica Kane (Susan Lucci). (1 hr.) ABC Weekdays at 1 p.m.

PHILADELPHIA See Sunday at 3:15 p.m. listing. (2 hrs. 30 mins.) TBS at 2 p.m.

BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER Watch the series from the beginning, the reruns are just as fun. (1 hr.) Weekdays on FX at 7 p.m.

THE ELLEN SHOW Finally in a good time slot, Ellen tries to help a football player with his anger issues. (30 mins.) CBS at 8:30 p.m.

ABSOLUTELY FABULOUS Saffy's gay father shows up for the opening of his daughter's play. Followed by 2 classic episodes. (3 hrs.) Comedy Central at 9 p.m.

THE LATE SHOW Because Monday is now "Ellen Day," Ms. DeGeneres will be yukking it up with David Letterman. (1 hr.) CBS at 11:35 p.m.

THE TONIGHT SHOW Elton John serenades Jay Leno. (1 hr.) NBC at 11:35 p.m.

EYE OF THE BEHOLDER Crooner kd lang plays the boss of a secret government agent (Ewen McGregor) who is obsessed with a sexy serial killer (Ashley Judd). (1 hr. 45 mins.) Starz! at 11:35 p.m.

WOMAN ON TOP When a Brazillian chef (Penelope Cruz) finds her husband in bed with another woman, she moves in with a black transsexual (Harold Perrineau, Jr.) in San Francisco to start a new life. (1 hr. 35 mins.) HBO at midnight.

tuesday dec. 11

THE WORLD ACCORDING TO GARP John Lithgow plays Roberta, a transsexual former football player, and the most well-adjusted person in this drama. (2 hrs., 20 min.) Starz! at 1145 a.m.

MADONNA VIDEO COLLECTION A handful of the material girl's best videos. (1 hr.) VH1 at 2 p.m.

BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER A rerun where a bunch of monsters steal the gang's voices. (1 hr.) UPN at 8 p.m.

HAIRSPRAY Divine stars as Ricki Lake's mother in this satire of life in the 1950s. Directed by John Waters. (2 hrs.) Comedy Central at 8 p.m.

QUEER AS FOLK See Sunday at 10 p.m. listing (1 hr.) Showtime at 11 p.m.

wednesday dec. 12

HAIRSPRAY See Tuesday at 8 p.m. listing. (2 hrs.) Comedy Central at 3 p.m.

THE DREW CAREY SHOW Because of economic hardship, Drew is forced to take in a gay couple (of half of which is Adam West, TV's Batman) as boarders. (30 mins.) ABC at 9 p.m.

thursday dec. 13

WHOSE LINE IS IT ANYWAY Wayne Brady plays RuPaul as a sports reporter. (30 mins.) ABC at 8 p.m.

SURVIVOR You can either root for gay tribesman Brandon, or tell him to shut up and stop whining. (1 hr.) CBS at 8 p.m.

THE AMAZING RACE The final episode. Will Joe and Bill cross the finish line first? (1 hr.) CBS at 9 p.m.

WILL & GRACE Grace decorates the window displays at Barney's and Will meets a hot ballet dancer. (30 mins.) NBC at 9 p.m.

GAR WILLIAMS SHOW Gar reveals the truth behind gay old Hollywood. New Orleans Cable Access Channel 78 at 8:30 a.m. and 8:30 p.m. New Orleans.

MOUTH OF THE SOUTH LIVE! Local female impersonator Peg's weekly cocktail party taped live at an intown bar with co-host Monica Van Pelt. People TV, cable channel 12 or 24 at 11 p.m. and Saturdays at 10 p.m. Atlanta.

WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO BABY JANE Bette Davis and Joan Crawford play a set of psycho sisters. A camp classic and the perfect midnight movie. (2 hrs. 15 mins.) Turner Classic Movies at midnight.

friday dec. 14

CAN'T STOP THE MUSIC A fluffy sort of drama (but more comedy) of how the Village People were formed, complete with some of the band's classic songs. (2 hrs. 5 mins.) American Movie Classics at 1:15 p.m. and 8 p.m.

BRIDE OF CHUCKY In this campy installation of the killer doll franchise, Chucky and his killer doll bride harass a pair of teenagers and their gay friend. Gay actor Alexis Arquette costars. (2 hrs.) USA at 9 p.m.

LAW AND ORDER SPECIAL VICTIM'S UNIT A male stripper is involved in a murder case. (1 hr.) NBC at 10 p.m.

UNDER THE BIG TOP Unfortunately, it's not what you think. It's a documentary about the history of the circus. (2 hrs.) A&E at 10 p.m. CC

THE ROMAN SPRING OF MRS. STONE Tennessee Williams wrote this script about a fallen movie star (Vivien Leigh) who has an affair with a gigolo (a young Warren Beatty). (1 hr. 45 mins.) Turner Classic Movies at 10 p.m.

DEAUNDRA PEEK'S TV SHOW Lovely monotone drag diva sings about trailer parks, vienna sausages and more with special guests. People TV cable channel 12 or 24, 1130 p.m. and Saturday at 11 p.m. Atlanta.

— Compiled by Brian Moylan

The Village People star in the hilariously camp 1980 film 'Can't Stop the Music,' which is loosely (very loosely) based on their career story.

on the air

by BILL ROUNDY

Gay subtext TV

'The Tick' and 'Smallville' offer a big taste of gay innuendo

From Batman and Robin to "The Ambiguously Gay Duo," the idea of muscular men dressing in tight-fitting costumes to fight evil has always lent itself to gay intimations.

The latest superhero tale to examine those "close bonds forged in the heat of battle" is the new Fox series **THE TICK**, based on the comic-book series by Ben Edlund.

The show features the daft but nigh-invulnerable hero, the Tick (Patrick Warburton), who battles crime in the City with the help of Arthur (David Burke), an accountant who can fly with the help of a moth-like outfit.

The show's quirky humor succeeds in part because of the Tick's ludicrous extended metaphors. "Fear not, City," he cries, "I shall spread hot buttery justice over your every nook and cranny!"

But the show's main strength is the goofy way it plays with the conventions of comic-book superheroes. It shows what they do when they're not fighting crime, for instance, writing memoirs about their adventures or hanging out at a local diner.

The tradition of the ambiguously gay crime-fighting duo cropped up in the recent episode "Couples" when the Tick and Arthur encounter another superhero team: the macho Fiery Blaze (Ron Perlman) and his fey, scantily-attired sidekick, Friendly Fire (Patrick Breen).

The exact nature of their relationship was left unsaid, but the two live together, send joint Christmas cards and act like a dysfunctional gay couple. The much-abused Friendly Fire was portrayed as a gay club kid with frosted hair, raver-style goggles and a penchant for listening to dance music while fussily preparing to go out.

After Blaze insults him once too often, Friendly walks out on him, moving in with the Tick and Arthur until Blaze comes crawling back.

"I'm no good without you," whines the drunken Fiery Blaze. "Please, come back to me."

"You have to promise me that things are going to change," Friendly prissily replies. When Blaze agrees, the two are happily reunited.

In the tradition of all heroes and sidekicks, the show never explicitly states that Blaze and Friendly are gay, but clearly implies a romantic relationship.

The Tick remains oblivious, as he is to most things, but even his closeness with Arthur arouses comment from another superhero, the suave "Bat Manuel," who hints that the two are "a little too close, maybe."

Also worth mentioning in a discussion of superheroic gay subtext is the WB's new show **SMALLVILLE**. The series features a teen Superman, who is just becoming aware of his abilities.

WB's 'The Tick' stars Patrick Warburton (right) as an insect superhero who battles crime.

Many gay viewers tuned in because of print ads that featured the handsome, bare-chested Tom Welling as Superman, a.k.a. Clark Kent. That titillating picture came from a scene in the pilot episode, in which Clark, weakened by a Kryptonite necklace, was stripped to his boxers and tied up like a scarecrow as part of a school prank.

The scene was eerily reminiscent of the murder of gay college student Matthew Shepard, who was mistaken for a scarecrow when he was found tied to a fence. Producers of the show told Entertainment Weekly that any similarities were not intentional.

Still, the gay subtext continues, and the relationship between Clark and his future enemy Lex Luthor, at this time a local rich kid, fairly smolders with homoerotic tension. Clark saved Lex's life in the pilot episode, reviving him with mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

Now the two exchange long, doe-eyed looks while speaking lines like: "I don't want anything to stand in the way of our friendship."

The show includes a nominal heterosexual love interest for Clark, the pretty girl-next-door Lana Lang, but it certainly seems like the future Superman might be looking to acquire a sidekick.

INFO

'The Tick'
Thursdays, 9:30 p.m.
Fox
www.fox.com/schedule/2001/tick.htm

'Smallville'
Tuesdays, 9 p.m.
WB
http://onthebox.netfirms.com/Articles/Smallville/Smallville.html

ARE YOU READY TO START HIV TREATMENT?

The AIDS Research Consortium of Atlanta (ARCA) is currently enrolling HIV+ patients into a study called CNA30021. This study compares the efficacy of once daily dosing versus twice daily dosing of FDA approved antiretrovirals. All study drugs will be provided and the study could last up to 96 weeks. As with any clinical trial, there are risks associated with approved and experimental drugs.

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- You are at least 18 years old
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- Your viral load is greater than 400
- You have never taken antiretrovirals
- Your physician is a participating ARCA Investigator

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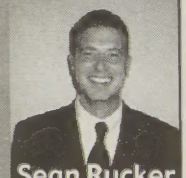

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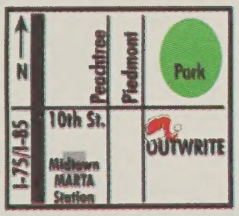

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out in music

by BRIAN MOYLAN

Dizzying stimulation

Pet Shop Boys' latest is an over-produced concert DVD entitled 'Montage'

The Pet Shop Boys 'Montage' is a mix of computer graphics and live performance on DVD.

There's something about being at a concert that is hard to capture on film.

The energy of the crowd, the anticipation of seeing your favorite band, the hot boy who keeps bumping into you — all of that can't be recaptured by a concert video. Such canned efforts are, generally, boring to watch.

Knowing this, the **PET SHOP BOYS**, in their new DVD **MONTAGE**, a film version of their 1999/2000 "Nightlife" tour, try to solve the problem of showing the footage of the concert while making it as fresh and exciting as possible for both those who were lucky enough to be there in the first place and those who missed the show.

Their answer is to superimpose various images — looping clips from the band's music videos, swirling graphics, footage of surfers and lightning storms — over the action of the concert.

In some instances, these graphics are meant to mirror the graphics that were projected on a giant screen behind the band and dancers during the show. But in other instances the selection seems inconsequential to both the song and the action on stage.

What the layers of visuals create is a headache. It looks as if the band is performing behind a clear screen onto which fast-moving, often-repeating graphics are being projected. This makes it hard to see both the concert and the visuals.

The only time the visual/concert conceit works well is when Dusty Springfield sings and dances, in video clips, along side a live Tennant during the Pet Shop Boys hit, "What Have I Done To Deserve This?"

The best aspect of the DVD is that it offers excellent sound and the selection of songs range the band's career, functioning as a bit of a "Greatest Hits" compilation. There is also an option on the DVD that allows you to watch only the visuals while listening to the songs, which would be perfect to leave on at a party or for eye candy while dithering around the house.

Unless you are a die-hard Pet Shop Boys fan, it would be wiser to stick with listening to the CDs than watching this dizzying and over stimulating DVD.

Newcomers to the music of **JAMIE ANDERSON** may be surprised at her frankness and ability to instill humor into her lyrics, but the initiated know that these are her trademarks. Anderson's newest release, **LISTEN**, welcomes the uninitiated into her style with ease.

Touring since the 1980s, Anderson is infamous for her stage shows, during which she treats audiences to baton twirling and belly dancing. Many of the cuts on "Listen" were recorded live, with few overdubs.

Jamie Anderson instills frankness and humor in her release 'Listen.'

The authenticity adds to Anderson's music. The feel of the CD draws listeners in, as they become Anderson's intimates.

The electric slide guitar on the opening track, "(I Wanna) Drive," gives the song a blues-rock feel as Anderson sings about love. "Maybe You Miss Me" is about lost love, while the title track is Anderson's lesson about infidelity and how to make a relationship work.

The rest of the CD really captures Anderson's flavor, with a refreshing optimism.

Anderson also shows her serious side with "Forever Family," a song dealing with different types of families, including a lesbian couple. "Fourteen" tackles the serious issue of gun violence and "A Love This True" is Anderson's plea to legalize same-sex marriages.

"Listen" is a full dose of Anderson, taking listeners on a journey from country, to harmony to rocking blues. It's a refreshing escape from the typical women's music genre and definitely worth a listen.

INFO

Pet Shop Boys
petshopboys.co.uk

Jamie Anderson
www.jamieanderson.com

women

TOP 5 BEST-SELLERS

1. **Substitute for Love** by Karin Kallmaker $12.95 After having great sex for the first time, Holly tries to turn her relationship from lust to love.
2. **Out of Sight** by Claire McNab $12.95 Secret agent Denise Cleever goes undercover to bust a terrorist training camp, and instead, falls for one of the instructors.
3. **Eighth Day** by Kate Calloway $11.95 Trying to keep her passion in check while rescuing a wayward teen may be too difficult for Cassidy James.
4. **Mirrors by Marianne** K. Martin $11.95 Two friends, one who is happy with her partner and one who leaves her husband, are at turning points in their lives.
5. **The Truth Is...** by Melissa Etheridge $24.95 The lesbian rocker tells the stories behind her songs.

men

TOP 5 BEST-SELLERS

1. **The Little Book of Neuroses** by Thomas Michael Ford $14.95 Skewering himself and gay life, Ford describes the "Ongoing Trials from my Queer Life."
2. **The World of Normal Boys** by K. M. Soehnlein $14 An artful tale of growing up and discovering sexual identity in the New Jersey suburbs in the 1970s.
3. **The Night Listener** by Armistead Maupin $14 After a man's partner leaves him, he engages in an intense relationship, by phone, with a HIV-positive thirteen year old.
4. **Rainbow Boys** by Alex Sanchez $17 Like a Judy Blume for the PFLAG set, Sanchez tells the story of three gay boys finding love and acceptance in high school.
5. **Metes and Bounds** by Jay Quinn $17 Caught between the construction sites he works at and the waves he surfs, Matt explores his sexual and emotional boundaries.

general

TOP 5 BEST-SELLERS

1. **Me Talk Pretty One Day** by David Sedaris $14.95 This is a collection of autobiographical stories from the openly gay humorist.
2. **My Son Divine** by Frances Milstead $19.95 The mother of the larger than lif drag queen, Divine, writes about her son at home and documents his career.
3. **Behind the Screens** by William J. Mann $29.95 A look at costume and set designers, directors and writers that shows "How Gays and Lesbians Shaped Hollywood."
4. **What the Bible Really Says About Homosexuality** by Daniel A. $14 This scholarly report suggests that the Bible does not condemn gay sex.
5. **I'm the One that I Want by Margaret Cho** $22.95 This book is a fleshed-out version of Cho's solo show of the same title.

This month's bestsellers list reflects sales figures requested from gay and lesbian stores across the country.

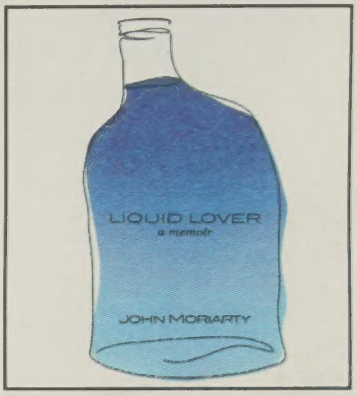
—Brian Moylan

out in print BOOK REVIEWS

Promise dissolved into pap

Gay author's tome about alcohol and sex addiction starts off with a bang but trails off into patronizing banter

by LUCAS J. MIRE



While many have revealed, and reveled in, their alcoholism on well-worn pages of best-sellers, perhaps very few have revealed so little, yet reveled so much, as John Moriarty in his watered-down gay memoir, **LIQUID LOVER**.

Without the celebrity voyeurism factor that props up many addiction-addled memoirs, like Suzanne Somers' "Keeping Secrets," which detailed her life growing up in an alcoholic home, Moriarty tries to hook gay readers with his everyman's take on surviving alcoholism and sex addiction.

The book's press materials make a case for such interest, touting statistics that show gay men and lesbians at a much higher risk for "problems with alcohol" than heterosexuals. And to be sure, the book's first half is quite addictive.

Moriarty, a freelance writer by trade, can turn a phrase and, in those early pages, writes with an honest vigor. He takes readers on an inside ride through Kansas City's wild side, a ride that is stunning for its forthrightness.

He details many a drunken night ladled with hot sex, vitamin V (his pet name for Vodka) and regrets. It's not the seedy details that scintillate; it's the passion that resonates in the writing.

Moriarty embodies those early passages with the perfect balance of disclosure, insight, and style.

Unfortunately, precisely when Moriarty begins to get his life in shape, his book falls apart.

Moriarty pads the second half of "Liquid Lover" with repetitive New Age pap that neither moves nor convinces. Basking in his newfound sobriety and his quest for love, Moriarty fails to make his journey resonate with any of the edgy honesty and tight writing that made the first half of "Liquid Lover" so enthralling.

Instead we are treated to Stuart Smalley-esque platitudes and staccato sentences masquerading as poetic minimalism. In addition to an artful delivery, one hopes Moriarty would clearly impart some of the knowledge gleaned on his journey to hell and back.

Not here.

Consider this: "Damage comes in many forms. Damage is everywhere. Damage consumes its victims." Or, how about: "I am an addict. Because."

Despite all the recovery hoohah, Moriarty never convincingly explains how he made the transition from raging alcoholic to clean and sober. One day he has a fight with his boyfriend (again!), drinks too much vitamin V (again!), and wakes up knowing he has to change his life (again!).

Thankfully, he does change his life for the better by kicking alcohol, random sex, and all of the requisite crutches. While turning points like this may be common in real-life, readers struggling with addictions might benefit from a more detailed account of the process.

To add to the confusion, he briefly mentions a 9-year stint without alcohol, which he calls his 'dry drunk' period. This may be a point with which those familiar with addiction and alcoholism may easily understand, but a few questions linger for the uninitiated.

For instance, how did he differentiate between a 9-year period of sobriety and his somewhat newer status as 'recovered alcoholic'? It may have been more prudent to omit a few of his romantic rendezvous and include more details about those nine years, which are somehow different from sober life he is living now.

The recovered Moriarty also dons a 'holier-than-thou' attitude towards friends still waging a battle with the bottle. Upon running into an old acquaintance, Nan, with a glass of wine "gripped tightly in one hand" and a dismissive remark on her tongue, Moriarty writes: "With her sad eyes and pale skin... I worry she's drifting back into the dark. I go to bed later and say a prayer."

Good old-fashioned worry or simple "I'm-sober-you're-not" condescension? Make that decision after reading similar passages about Sam, Riley, Ty, etc., etc.

That "Liquid Lover" starts with such promise and descends into a crystals-and-rainbow pastiche of self-help dogma and self-referential ego boosting is a shame.

Perhaps instead of a tall tumbler of turn-on-a-dime resolutions, Moriarty's memoir might have gone down smoother as a shot of been-there-done-that straightforwardness.

In addition to Southern Voice, Lucas J. Mire's reviews have appeared in the Lambda Book Report. He can be reached at lucasmire@earthlink.net.

INFO

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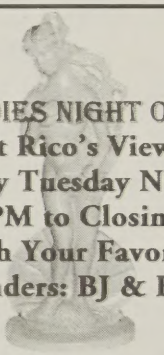

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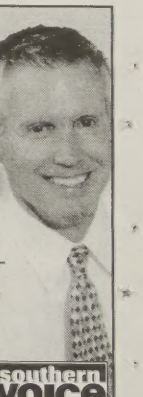

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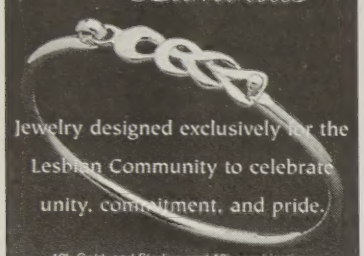

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ms. behavior

Common-sense advice on life and love

by MERYL COHN

Throw momma from the train

Dear Ms. Behavior:

I'm 42 and have been dating an adorable and intelligent 35-year-old man, Evan, for the past six months. We are in love but taking it slow because we both recently ended relationships.

We see each other once during the week and once on weekends. We only sleep together once a month but we kiss and hold hands whenever we're together.

We recently decided to spend an entire weekend together once a month so we can share more intimacy. You are probably thinking OK, so?

Well, here's the clincher: Evan moved in with his mother Ruth after his last relationship ended and she is becoming an obstacle. Ruth is a lovely woman but sometimes makes Evan feel guilty about seeing me.

Evan never came out to his mother, so a lot of miscommunication goes on. Ruth asks Evan strange questions and makes him feel funny.

Evan is too afraid to say he is gay even though I suggested it would help. Evan thinks his mother knows, but is in denial.

I agree; I recently loaned Evan my Judy Garland CDs and he dusted and cleaned the house while lip synching to "Get Happy" right in front of Ruth.

Ruth is asexual and seems to think we are too.

I am really frustrated about this. I have told Evan to lie and say he is doing things with other friends so Ruth will hold her tongue but he doesn't want to lie.

We want to spend more time together but Ruth's presence in Evan's life is making it difficult for him to be independent.

What's your advice?

—Ready to Throw Momma from the Train

Dear Ready:

You're focused on the fire in the ashtray while the house burns down. Yes, it's worrisome that Evan isn't out to his mother, but it's far more alarming that he's 35 years old and lives with her. Hello?

Your weekly handholding and kissing sessions sound sweet. But in the context of Evan's marriage to Mommy, you may delude yourselves into thinking that you're "taking it slow" when you're actually being forced into adolescent semi-celibacy.

If Evan doesn't come out to Ruth directly, she'll become a growing thorn in your relationship. Tell him not to rely on a song this time, unless he plans to wear a designer loincloth and sing "It's Raining Men" with a gaggle of similarly clad nellies.

Talk with Evan about the benefits of living alone. Help him to envision a better future, when you can stop acting like nervous breeders hovering over a fertility calendar and have spontaneous naked sleepover dates instead.

Raucous, impulsive sex may sound dangerous, but you'd probably actually enjoy fucking yourselves into delirium.

Dear Ms. Behavior:

After the most difficult summer of my life, which began with the death of my beloved brother and concluded with the demise of my 17-year relationship, I am newly single in my mid-30s.

I recently met a woman who is interested in me. I enjoy her company, but I'm not ready for a relationship. I'm not even sure I'm ready to date.

This woman says she understands where I'm coming from, but her actions indicate otherwise. When I see her, she presses me to go out with her and tries to be inappropriately intimate.

I'd like to be friends, but she's making me uncomfortable. How can I tell her she's crossing a line and still keep the door open for friendship?

—G.

Help him envision a better future when you can stop acting like nervous breeders hovering over a fertility calendar and have spontaneous naked sleepover dates instead.

Dear G:

Your method of notifying your friend that she's crossing a line should be relative to her level of intrusion. If she merely sits too close to you on the couch, let her know with body language, for example, by leaning away from her as if you're being blown by a windstorm.

But if by "inappropriately intimate" you mean she inserts her tongue in your mouth while you're talking, you'll need to say something more direct. Like, "Hey, stop."

Maybe she feels too attracted to you to just be friends, at least for now. If you're worrying about how to fend her off while she's getting all juiced up at the sight of you, a lighthearted afternoon movie probably won't work.

But give serious consideration as to whether your signals to her are clear. If you're interested in friendship and worried about scaring her away, you may unconsciously put out little hooks to keep her engaged.

Go easy on yourself. You've had a dreadful year.

Part of dating is learning how to say "No" convincingly. Since your last dating experience may have occurred during, say, 11th grade lacrosse practice (17 years ago), your technique may be rusty.

The good news is that once you're able to say *no* proficiently, *yes* comes a lot more easily.

Meryl Cohn is the author of "Do What I Say: Ms. Behavior's Guide to Gay and Lesbian Etiquette" (Houghton Mifflin, 1995). Address correspondence to: Ms. Behavior, c/o Southern Voice, 1075 Zonolite Road, Suite 1-D, Atlanta, GA 30306, or to msbehavior@aol.com.

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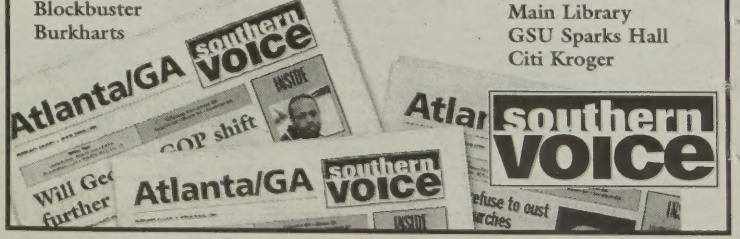

Trans performers struggle to tap American market

➢ Continued from Page 25

Dana International

Dana International, also in her late 20s, was born Yaron Cohen in Tel Aviv. It was her performances with a drag troupe and friendship with producer Offer Nisam that initially thrust her into the limelight in the early 1990s.

After gender reassignment in 1995, she recorded three dance music CDs which were extremely successful in her native Israel. This eventually led to her entrée into the 1998 Eurovision song contest. Fans of ABBA may recall the competition that put the group on the map in the mid 1970s.

Despite outcries from Orthodox Jews, International was chosen as the winner for Eurovision that year (with a song called "Diva"), even receiving congratulations from some traditionally conservative political figures, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"People judged the song and my performance, not my sexuality and I am glad for it," International said after winning the contest.

An amusing side note: She was requested to join the Spice Girls after Geri Halliwell left, but felt it was not the direction she wanted to take with her career.

International has recorded seven CDs and is currently under contract to Sony UK. Outside of Israel, she maintains a huge fan base in some of the former Soviet bloc. (www.geocities.com/Hollywood/Club/6958)

Amanda Lear

Amanda Lear is most famous for a string of hits in the late 1970s that included "Follow Me" and "Blood and Honey." Even though she is nearing the age of 60, she continues to record dance music and is still quite popular in France and Germany, where she hosts a television show.

Her larger than life legacy includes much more than just disco hits. She was once one of the world's top models and she's been a painter and television presenter.

She was muse to surrealist Salvador Dali. According to one time friend April Ashley, Amanda was also once a "boney teenage boy."

Though Lear dodges the question these days when asked about her genetic code, trans rocker Jayne County also confirms Ashley's sentiments.

"We performed in the same drag queen circuit together," County insists.

According to Ashley, it was Salvador Dali who actually financed Lear's sex change in 1965.

Over the years, Lear has married (her husband was killed in a tragic fire that destroyed Lear's home last year) and posed nude, while at the same time continuing her recording career with songs like "The Sphinx," "Alter Ego" and "I Am A Mystery."

Most recently Lear recorded a new version of the "Love Boat" theme and is releasing another album this month, entitled "Heart."

The president of Lear's Paris-based fan club, Alain Mendiburu talked about the enigmatic performer just prior to an exhibition of her artwork in Moujin in 1998.

"She has stayed popular here because she is so unusual," he says. "Europeans like that Dietrich kind of thing and her mysterious side."

(www.eurodancehits.com/learmain.html)

Kate Bornstein (left) and Jessica Xavier both say America is still a bit too conservative to support a post-operative transsexual performer.

Cultural changes

Even though America's attitudes towards gay men and lesbians are clearly much more liberal than in years past, there's still a strong conservative influence on the entertainment industry.

"In this country the entertainment industry requires a well-defined gender to sell a product," says Bornstein. "We're not going to have those kinds of performers and that kind of success until attitudes change.

"Look at who we have in office right now. I just don't think it's quite time yet. We need to change a lot of right-leaning opinions."

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dish

There's a Fine Line Between Telling the Truth and Talking Trash

Fabulousness digitally enhanced

We joked about it last week, but the truth always turns out to be stranger than fiction, especially in the face of Michael Jackson. News sources from Entertainment Weekly to People Magazine revealed last week that the producers of Jackson's recent 30th Anniversary television special indeed used state-of-the-art Computer Generated Imaging (CGI) techniques to enhance and "correct" some of the entertainers' appearances.

Sources report that Jackson's face was airbrushed and color-corrected, stubble removed from his chin and sweat removed from his brow. And producers who initially wondered whether or not they would even be able to air Whitney Houston's performance due to her disturbing skeletal appearance, airbrushed over Houston's jutting collarbone and enhanced her bony legs.

Liza's all dressed up and ready to fall in love.

But that's not all the weirdness that took place at this soiree. Backstage, Liza Minnelli was simply losing her mind over the show's producer, David Gest. Whether it was her attraction to Gest's charisma or simply to his photo retouching skills, Minnelli apparently fell hard and fast for the producer. So fast in fact that the couple are now engaged and due to wed next March.

It will be Liza's fourth walk down the aisle and the first for the future Mr. Minnelli. That same month, Gest will produce a televised tribute to the 55 year-old entertainer, which is set to feature a dance duet between Liza and fellow photoshop friend, Michael Jackson. "I am the happiest I've ever been," Liza said in a vaguely familiar-sounding statement. "Everything I've been through was worth it to find David."

Life under Waters

With the holidays right around the corner, thoughts naturally turn to cha-cha heels and overturned Christmas trees. Uh, don't they?

At least they do for fans of writer-director John Waters, who in a recent interview with IFC Magazine was asked if he's working on any upcoming projects this holiday season that he could discuss.

"I give you my stock answer on this one," he replied. "I always believe it's bad luck to promote before you've done it."

And then he told anyway: "I'm writing my next film right now. It's called 'A Dirty Shame' and it's about sex addicts and their search for dignity. Maybe it'll be my feel good 'Salo.'"

Now there's a warm feeling. In the meantime, Dreamland fans can tide themselves over with the book "My Son Divine," written by Frances Milstead, Divine's mother.

While it's not exactly cha-cha heels, the oversized and photo-heavy book is, however, a great holiday gift for the poop-eater on your list. And we mean that in a nice way.

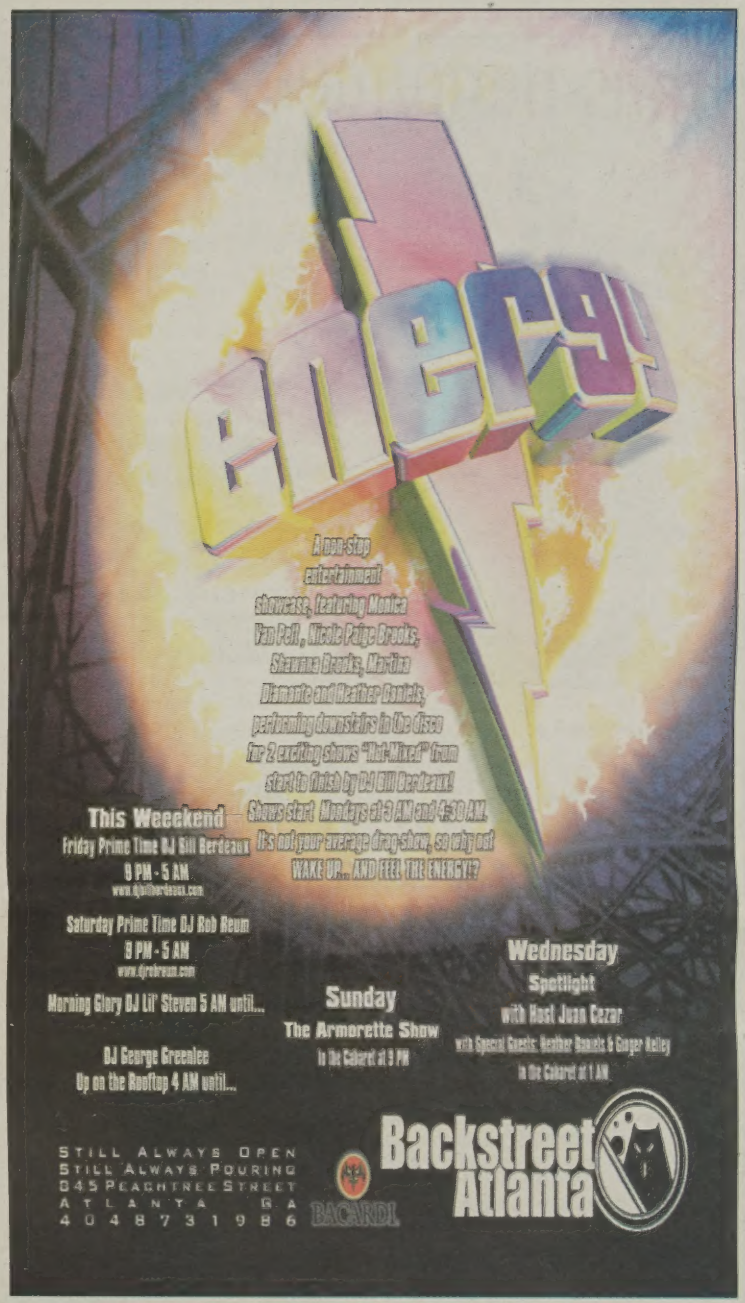
John Waters champions the dignity of blue collar sex addicts.

Dead or Alive still kicking

Pete Burns is ready to *Cher* his makeup secrets.

Eighties pop stars never die, they just get big in Japan. And, uh, start looking a lot like Cher. At least if you're Dead or Alive's Pete Burns. The singer's 10th album, "Unbreakable," a "hyper-techno" collection of his old hits, was just released in record stores all over Tokyo. But Burns yearns to do more than just sing for his makeup. Next year, Burns will transition into the very unlikely role of television host. According to Burns' official Web site, the mad, bad and dangerous one has just signed on as presenter for a new television series called "The Male Peacock" which begins production in New York after the first of the year. The show will explore the male as a focus of glamour and beauty. And who, for Pete's sake, would be better suited and booted for that job?

—Write to Dish@sovo.com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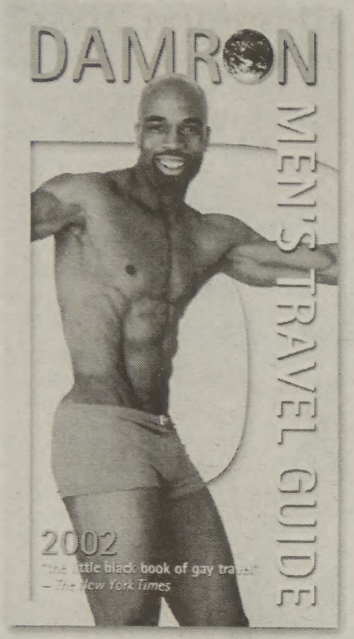

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TRAVEL TIPS FOR THOSE OUT & ABOUT

by ANDREW COLLINS

When you're craving a diner

Traditional diner offers a taste of Americana: classic fare from a mid-20th century perspective

The Clover Grill in New Orleans' French Quarter is a staple of the city's gay culture.

Begun in 1872 when an enterprising young man sold nickel sandwiches from a wagon in Providence, R.I., the "diner" concept has been improved upon again and again.

In truth, a great many of what we call diners bear little resemblance to the tiny wood-frame or stainless-steel boxes that proliferated in cities and along highways throughout the 20th century.

But there are general commonalities: Naugahyde stools and booths, Formica counters, mini-jukeboxes, the co-mingling aromas of hot coffee and bacon grease, and the sound of eggs, burgers, and fries sizzling and crackling on a hot griddle or inside a deep fryer.

Many diners have become fixtures in local gay communities, often as reliable post-night-clubbing oases of home-style cooking, giggly flirtation, and unpredictable people-watching.

Whether you're an addict of diner culture or a newcomer to this culinary genre, keep the following list of noteworthy gay-popular greasy spoons in mind during your travels. After all, you never know when or where the urge for blueberry pancakes or steak-and-eggs will strike.

Clover Grill, 900 Bourbon St., New Orleans, La.

A wild bunch of pretty boys, disco dykes, and leather daddies yuk it up with the saucy staff at this infectious fun pink-tile palace on Bourbon Street.

The smart-ass staffers love to poke fun at customers. The more you sass them back, the deeper a hole your dig for yourself.

Of course, masochists are not the only devotees: regulars also come to fill up on grits, which are always soaking in a vat of melted butter. The "Flawless Geaux Girl Waffles" with pecans, bananas, and a side of bacon, also hit the spot.

Little notes posted on menus offer admonitions like "we don't eat in your bed, so please don't sleep at our table," though plenty of zoned-out partiers seem not to heed this advice.

Silver Top Diner, 13 Harris Ave., Providence, R.I.

The nocturnal creatures of progressive Providence flock to this cool diner when seeking midnight sustenance. Open only 11 p.m. to 7 a.m., the Silver Top dates back many decades and currently stands in crisis, fending off attempts by real-estate developers to take over its land.

It's a dreary but potentially profitable little patch of blight in the shadows of Providence Place Mall.

As the city has transformed dramatically around it, this lonely little vision in blue-and-white tile and stainless steel has continued to serve a quirky blue-collar crowd, mixed with academics, slackers and club kids. The vintage "infra-red broiling" and "vaculator coffee" signs on the exterior attest to the tried-and-true diner cooking you can expect to find inside.

Beauty's, 93 Mont-Royal Ouest, Montreal

Along a dapper street in Montreal's Plateau neighborhood, Hymnie and Freda Sckolnick opened this classic, Jewish diner-cum-deli in 1942, and the place has been turning out stellar food to appreciative crowds ever since.

Gaggles of old ladies, counter-cultural types with Day-Glo hair, yuppyish nine-to-fivers, and even the occasional celeb descend on Beauty's to feast cheek-by-jowl on bagels slathered with cream cheese and stacked with reams of paper-thin lox, and fluffy challah French toast with fresh maple syrup.

Otto's Malt Shop, 3903 Wyoming St., Kansas City, Mo.

Fashioned out of an old service station and packed with vintage soda-pop signs, Norman Rockwell prints, retro furniture, and even a Twister board-game clock, this gay-popular homage to fab 1950s kitsch serves luscious vanilla malts, juicy burgers, and quite possibly the best curly fries in America.

If you're a tuna-melt connoisseur, try the one here served with gobs of Swiss cheese on marble rye toast (order it with sauteed onions for best results).

You can continue your nostalgic ramble next door with a shopping spree at Boomerang, a quirky boutique jam-packed with tasseled lampshades, oversized bowling shirts, and other goodies that appear to be recycled from the set of "I Love Lucy."

INFO

Beauty's
514-849-8883

Clover Grill
504-523-0904

Otto's Malt Shop
816-756-1010

Silver Top Diner
401-272-2890

my stars

by CHARLENE LICHTENSTEIN

December 7-13

December is here this week, and the atmosphere is overheated with holiday anticipation. Finish the year with the ho-ho-ho Sun in Capricorn. Are you ready to sit on Santa's lap and let him decide if you've been naughty or nice?

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)
Gay Rams, take a fling with a friend now that your wildest fantasies find an appreciative audience; your heated efforts produce results. Bosom buddies provide happy surprises. Let's hope those surprises come wrapped from Tiffany. Ahem.

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)
Planets pop your cork. Spray the champagne and don't slip on the puddles, especially at the office. Bulls have an opportunity to demonstrate abilities to bosses as Uranus turns up the heat and stirs the pot. So what is really cooking, queer Bull?

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)
The planets conspire to make a match. If you're spoken for, use the time before Christmas to cocoon. If you're trawling, try casting your net farther afield. Send out a search party with the emphasis on "party." New Year's Eve ain't that far off, pink Twin.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)
Is the way to a lover's heart through the stomach, or some lower body part? (Hint: Stop at the knees and retrace your steps.) Enjoy the physical feast before Dec. 22. After that, you'll be content to plotz in your jammies and watch the ball drop on TV.

LEO (JULY 24 – AUG. 23)
Proud Lions are up to their old tricks as a cavalcade of planets boogie through Sagittarius. Join the conga line before Dec 22. After that you'll burn the midnight oil to catch up on last minute job demands. Ho, ho, ho! Turn out the light when you leave.

VIRGO (AUG. 24 – SEPT. 23)
Repair any frayed family lines this week. The fates encourage gay Virgos to make one last try at harmony before 2002 is put to bed. Be party-hearty-ready by Dec. 22. The new year brings a fresh affirming breeze; don't be held back by anyone.

LIBRA (SEPT. 24 – OCT. 23)
It's never too late to become politically involved in our community issues. Work your diplomatic magic before Dec. 22, queer Libra. After that, you'll quiet down and sedately entertain at home, thanks to restrained – if you're lucky – Capricorn.

SCORPIO (OCT. 24 – NOV. 22)
Gay Scorps receive a surprise monetary boost from relatives, or discover a cache hidden away at home. Before you remove the floorboards in search of booty, remember that money cannot buy everything. Then again, it does buy nice champagne.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 – DEC. 22)
Gay Archers are well rewarded when four planets hover in Sagittarius. Uranus gives you the gift of gab. Unwrap before Dec 22. After that, you're less inclined to strut for strutting's sake. Life will have to make dollars to make sense. Invest wisely.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 23 – JAN. 20)
Clean out your closet this week. Long held values are examined and dissected. Toss out what is no longer affirming. You are in demand after Dec. 22. Hint: Cellophane panties make you the belle of the ball, but beware of drafts.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 – FEB. 19)
You make an unusual first impression. Ahem .... Perform good gay deeds for good gay causes and boost the good gay vibes. Launch 2002 with enough good karma to float a flotilla. Hey, Aqueerius, is it cruise season already?!

PISCES (FEB. 20 - MARCH 20)
Sun and Mercury sextile Uranus and boost your good points to those in power in surprising ways. After you grab the glory and Sun moves on, recharge in a faraway hideaway with a merry ol' elf or two. Or would rather just stuff your stocking by the fireplace?

For entertainment purposes only. For more information on Charlene Lichtenstein, including her new book, "HerScopes: A Guide to Astrology for Lesbians," visit www.AccessNewAge.com/Stargayzer.

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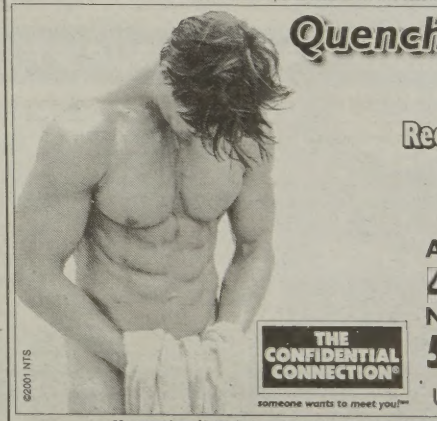

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Men Seeking Men

RELATIONSHIP-MINDED
GWM, 42, 5'11", 230lbs, bear type, HIV-, versatile, seeks sincere, younger GWM, H/W proportionate, for lots of love and LTR. Norcross ☎5452

LOOKING FOR ADVENTURE
WM, 6'1", 185lbs, brown/blue, likes decorating, long walks, romance, quiet evenings at home. Seeking romantic, outgoing man for LTR. Canon ☎5564

GEMINI SEEKING
Are you slim, under 6', versatile or top, looking for friendship possible LTR? GWM, 6'3", 225lbs, brown/brown, hairy bear, HIV-, is looking for you. I'm considered handsome, loving, romantic. Calls returned. Atlanta ☎5361

FUNNY, ATTRACTIVE...
fit male, 6', 175lbs, blond/green, enjoys travel, working out, and his two dogs. Seeking sincere, honest, funny guy. Atlanta ☎4349

TIRED OF THE BAR SCENE
GWPM, 26, 5'11", 215lbs, red/hazel, bear type, enjoys sports, tv, movies, and dining out. Seeking GWM, 23-29, H/W proportionate, D/D-free, for friendship, possible LTR. Atlanta ☎5358

GOOD MAN WANTED
Versatile SM, 32, 5'8", 175lbs, brown/blue, stocky build, seeks SM for friendship first, possible casual LTR. Atlanta ☎5533

ROMANTIC ADVENTURE
Handsome, outgoing, open-minded, masculine GBM, 31, 5'11", 220lbs, seeks well-rounded, down-to-earth, fearless SM, 25-50, race unimportant, for friendship and monogamous relationship. Atlanta ☎5030

YOUNG HIP URBAN GUY
GWM, 6', Italian/Spanish, very good-looking, masculine, intelligent, in shape, laid-back guy, seeks same. Atlanta ☎5510

SEEK LOVE, HAPPINESS
Affectionate, caring BM, 49, 5'9", 201lbs, seeks attractive, caring, sensitive SM, 55+, for cuddling and companionship. Normal ☎3978

SEEKING COMPANION
Attractive, masculine, financially secure GBM, 38, 5'11", 195lbs, seeks GBM for friendship and companionship. All calls will be answered. Lithonia ☎3376

HUNGRY FOR BIG BICEPS
Handsome, in shape, caring GWM, 37, 5'11", 185lbs, seeks massive GWM, body builder for friendship, cuddling and muscle worship. Show those muscles off to your number one fan. Atlanta ☎4939

GAINESVILLE
SWM, 30, 6', 170lbs, blond/blue, enjoys photography, videos, outdoors, country music. Seeking male under 30, for dating. Mount Airy ☎1880

LOOKING FOR ADVENTURE
Good-looking SM, 27, 5'8", 160lbs, black/brown, muscular build, Italian and Spanish, enjoys dining out, travel. Seeking athletic, tall SM, for friendship first, possibly more. Atlanta ☎5490

HIV+ MALE SEEKS SAME
Outgoing, sincere, honest male, 5'9", 160lbs, brown/green, healthy, enjoys baseball. Seeking similar GW/HM for LTR. Atlanta/Stockbridge area. Dallas ☎5168

SEEKING SOMEONE SPECIAL
Attractive SBM, 36, 5'10", 130lbs, N/S, HIV+, seeks honest, caring, affectionate SM for conversation, friendship, possible LTR. Garden City ☎5413

KINDRED SPIRIT
Attractive, masculine, successful, secure, romantic GWM, 40-something, top, seeks attractive, younger relationship GWM, bottom, to adore. Serious only. Atlanta ☎4093

Been Glanced?

SUNDAY, 11/18
Attractive blond guy boarded train to the airport at midtown. We exchanged glances. Me: black guy, got off at High Point. Let's meet? I couldn't help staring. Powder Springs ☎5567

EXPRESS ANES, SAT. 10/27
You were bowling in the next alley. Baseball cap and t-shirt. I was with two friends. Black t-shirt, jeans. We smiled, much eye contact. You left before we could talk. Atlanta ☎5481

AID ATLANTA, 10/29
You were waiting to speak to the receptionist. I was dropping off papers. We spoke about your pets. I'd love to meet them. Coffee ? Dinner? Atlanta ☎5453

QUICK TRIP, 11/23
We were pumping gas together, you on one side of the island, me the other. You were on your cell phone. We made eye contact. While driving away, you waved. Atlanta ☎5566

HOME DEPOT, 10/18
Smiled at each other in plant department. You: gray sweatshirt, cool, gray shoes, beautiful gray hair, driving gold Durango. Me: 6'2", blue shirt, blue eyes, dark hair. Let's meet. Atlanta ☎5364

10/28 NORTH SPRING TRAIN
You: Sandy blonde hair, navy blue or black slacks, reading Iliad. Me: Blue jeans, orange Abercrombie shirt, AE Lacrosse hat, blue. Meet for coffee? Atlanta ☎5450

SOUTHERN NIGHTS
9/24/01. You: dark blond in white muscle tee. Me: navy baseball cap. Let's meet for coffee. Atlanta ☎5334

SWEDISH GUY ON SKATEBOARD
Met you at Piedmont Park on Sunday, 10/30/01. You: blond Swedish guy on long speed skateboard. Me: Asian guy with frisbee. Can we have coffee sometime? Atlanta ☎5362

BKHD HD EXPO 10/14
We spoke waiting on a Sku #. You: dark hair, blue shirt, shorts. Me: gray shirt shirt, jeans. Better late than never - coffee or a cocktail? Atlanta. East Point ☎5402

TROPICAL PARADISE
Romantic GWM, 52, 5'7", 145lbs, salt-n-pepper/green, from key west, enjoys candlelight dinner, walking the beach, travel, swimming, snorkeling. Seeking monogamous top, hairy chested a+, for LTR Key West ☎5541

LOOKING FOR DOWN-TO-EARTH
37 year old GWM, 5'9" 170lbs, with green eyes, salt-pepper hair and goatee. Seeking GWM 35-45, not into drugs or bars, hopelessly romantic. Atlanta ☎5274

SEXY & PROFESSIONAL
GWPM, 37, 5'8", 165lbs, blond/brown, muscular, enjoys working out, waterskiing, and travel. Seeking male for possible LTR. Atlanta ☎5345

SEEKING LTR
Attractive, healthy GBM, 37, 5'9", 155lbs, HIV+, seeks mature, stable SM for friendship and LTR. Atlanta ☎4787

MUSCULAR, SEXY
Fit and defined GWM, 44, 6'2", horseman, HIV+, seeks passionate, adventurous, romantic SM for friendship, possible LTR. Landrum ☎5390

SEEKING LTR
Easygoing, honest, romantic guy, 30, 5'7", 155lbs, average build, N/Drugs, seeks same in decent, honest PM, under 35, who enjoys travel, beach, outdoors, park picnics, movies, not bars and games. Atlanta ☎5082

SEEKING MASCULINITY
GWM, 19, 5'10", 180lbs, brown/brown, enjoys clubbing, dining out, swimming, long walk, movies. Seeking masculine, honest, humorous GBM, with similar interests, for friendship, possible LTR. Jonesboro ☎5131

SEEKING DOWN-TO-EARTH
Versatile, cool, down-to-earth BM, 30, 5'9", 195lbs, seeks another down-to-earth BM, 19-42, no femmes, please. Washington ☎5344

HIV+ SEEKS SAME
BM, 36, seeks BM, HIV+, who enjoys park walks, cabins, the mountains, swimming, travel, to spend time with and get to know. Atlanta ☎5300

LOOKING FOR FUN
Mature GWM seeks other males for fun, pleasure and friendship. Let's get together, call now. Atlanta. ☎5335

SOMEONE JUST LIKE ME
SWM, 46, 5'9", 155lbs, brown/blue, moustache, easy to get along with, seeks male, 35-55, for friendship/relationship. Please be sincere, honest, humorous. All replies answered. Mountain City ☎3369

SAGITTARIUS SEEKING
SBM, 20, black/brown, 5'7", 150lbs, enjoys going out, shopping, movies. Seeking SBM, 20-35, who is down-to-earth, for friendship, possible LTR. Macon ☎5511

SEEKING QUALITY GUY
GWM, 41, 6'1", 180lbs, light brown/brown, clean-cut, masculine, mainstream, seeks attractive SM for possible LTR. Peachtree City ☎5520

FRIENDSHIP
GBM, 47, 5'8", 150lbs, HIV +, healthy, enjoys art, movies, working out, fun. Seeking mature GM, for friendship, possibly more. Atlanta ☎5509

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP
Sincere, honest, quiet, easy-going GWM, 56, 145lbs, brown/brown, mustache, N/S, N/D, enjoys movies, quiet evenings. Seeking male, 40-60, for relationship. Stone Mountain ☎4088

MACON, GEORGIA
SBM, 20, 5'9", 155lbs. I am a bottom and willing to travel. Seeking a black top male, 23-35, who is ready for a LTR. Macon ☎5480

VERY ADVENTUROUS
GWM, 48, 5'7", 155lbs, very smooth, enjoys travel and movies. Seeking GM, age/race open, for dating, relationship, possible LTR. Flowery Branch ☎5479

SENSE OF HUMOR A MUST
Light-hearted SM, 42, 6'2", 180lbs, brown hair, boy-next-door features, likes movies, reading, music, plays. Seeking male with similar interests. Atlanta ☎5326

EN ADELANTE
Con un hombre hispanic. Very sincere, hardworking BPM, 49, 5'10", 177lbs, into living a well-rounded life, N/Drugs, N/S, healthy-HIV. Seeking strong relationship-oriented man, who is goal-oriented. ☎4019

CUTE, SWEET BOTTOM
Attractive SBM, 5'5", 148lbs, muscular build, light brown complexion, enjoys exercise, reading, dining out. Seeking aggressive top, for possible monogamous LTR. Race/age unimportant. Atlanta ☎4865

SOULMATE WANTED
GBPM, 47, 6'6", 245lbs, HIV-, N/S, intelligent, caring, great cook, enjoys dining out, travel, nature, sports, cuddling. Seeking GWPM, 35-55, masculine, for monogamous relationship. Doraville ☎5460

WONDERFUL
Clean-cut, educated SWPM, 23, 5'9", 160lbs, blond/blue, seeks SM, age/race unimportant, for LTR. Whatever happens, happens. Gainesville ☎5214

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IVORY SEEKS EBONY
GWM, 48, 6'1", 180lbs, HIV+, healthy, easygoing, loves to travel, walks in the park, relaxing at home, dining out. Seeking GBM, 35-50, with similar interests, for friendship, possible LTR. Atlanta ☎5073

ARE YOU HUSKY?
WM, 54, 5'10", 230lbs, hairy bear, bottom, seeks husky/chubby, sincere guy for fun, friendship, and possible LTR. Atlanta ☎4735

SEEKING TOP SOULMATE
Masculine, healthy GWM, 42, 5'9", 175lbs, dark hair, HIV+, enjoys working out. Seeking genuine, masculine, serious-minded GBM, HIV+, for LTR. Decatur ☎5372

WANTED HISPANIC MALE
Handsome, affectionate GWM, 50, 6'4", 175lbs, with many varied interests, seeks romantic, loving GHM for LTR. Atlanta ☎5172

FRIEND AND COMPANION
Athletic, intelligent, introspective GWM, 39, 5'10", 180lbs, seeks sincere, soft-spoken, honest male for dating, LTR. Prefer smaller men. Race unimportant. Atlanta ☎5283

A PLEASURE!
Fun man looking for some fun! I love to be in love! Any race ok. Casual relationship. Baltimore ☎5451

SAME BOAT
BiWM, masculine, burly, 6', 250lbs, brown/blue, 17.5inch arms, works 1pm-1am, seeks bear, masculine WM, 45-60, 6'+, versatile top. Smyrna ☎5145

RELATIONSHIP ORIENTED?
So am I! Let's talk! Honest, thoughtful, sincere GWM, 44, 6'3", 195lbs, N/S, sweet disposition, non-scene, seeks same to take chance on dating with possible LTR. Atlanta ☎4658

SO ADDICTIVE
Attractive GBM, 20, 5'1", Brown skin and clean. Seeking clean, honest, 20-29 GBM. Friendship+. Atlanta ☎5539

SEEKING MAN OF COLOR
Attractive GBM, 35, 5'10", 185lbs, seeks slim or stocky man of color, under 45. The darker the better. Atlanta ☎5305

HEART-ON
Come on and try this HIV+ GWM, 47, 5'11", 190lbs, toned build, shaved head, blue eyes, blond goatee, honest, affectionate, sexual, enjoys movies, hiking, dining out, aerobics. Let's talk. Atlanta ☎4775

LONELY I N WARNER ROBBINS
SWM, 38, 6'1", 225lbs, brown/blue, seeks SWM, HIV-, N/S, N/D, N/Drugs, who enjoys walks, mountains, and time together for friendship, possible LTR. Warner Robins ☎5568

DOUGLASVILLE
Handsome WM, 5'11", 205lbs, blue eyes, all-over tan, works out five days a week, seeks other gym types that like to sunbathe and go to the beach. Douglasville ☎4857

POWER CO. LINEMAN TYPE
GWM, 39, 190lbs, 6'2", enjoys sports, working out, and movies. Seeking stable, masculine man, 25-55, with solid build. Atlanta ☎5272

I LOVE GIRLS
GBF, 36, 5'3", full-figured, enjoys movies, tennis, bowling, travel, dining out, good conversation. Seeking independent female with similar interests, possible LTR. Atlanta ☎5503

WINDOW SHOPPING
intelligent, soft butch GWPF, 36, 5'9", 145lbs, brown/green, enjoys music, concerts, classical to alternative, theater, the arts, travel, sports, pets. Seeking someone for friendship first. Tucker ☎5461

HEART OF GOLD
Intelligent, happy, fun-loving SWF, 30-something, great sense of humor, enjoys the outdoors, traveling, reading, good conversation. Seeking SF, 30-something, with similar interests, for fun and new adventures, N/S, possible LTR. Atlanta ☎5363

DON'T GIVE UP
Very attractive, successful, intelligent, warm and caring, young-looking, feminine 40 year-old SWPF seeks similar for exclusive relationship. N/S, N/Drugs. Canton/Roswell. ☎5107

ACTIVE
GWPF, 46, 5'2", H/W proportionate, has a variety of interests, enjoys travel, weekend getaways, beaches, mountains, tennis and hiking. Seeking same, 45 to 60, secure and healthy. McDonough ☎4764

SERIOUS-MINDED...
attractive butch, 30, seeks GWF who enjoys outdoors, laughter, and romantic evenings, for friendship, possible LTR. Atlanta ☎5508

TENNIS ANYONE?
GBF, 43, enjoys playing tennis, going to sporting events, movies, concerts, quiet evenings at home. Seeking GBF for friendship and possible LTR. Let's play. Lithonia. ☎5506

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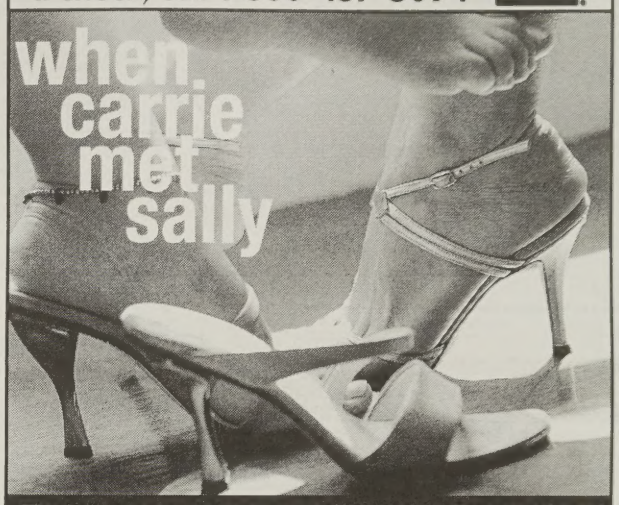

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Athletic, hard-bodied, very healthy GWM, 38, 6'1", brown/blue, HIV+, with many different interests, extremely passionate. Seeking courtship with like-minded. Atlanta ☎5512

MASCULINE SEEKS SAME
Down-to-earth, nice SM, 47, 5'10", hazel green eyes, works out, likes running, jogging, painting, sculpting, coffee shops, dancing. Seeking fun, genuine man, age open, who enjoys living! Atlanta ☎5234

HOT DAD AVAILABLE
Hot dad, 52, 5'9", 157lbs, toned, brown/blue, hairy chest, sexy, seeks younger male for friendship, dating, and to keep warm on a cold winter night. Atlanta ☎5507

SEEKS SMOOTH AND SEXY
Cool, laid-back, independent SF, 5'6", 175lbs, short blonde, seeks independent SF, 23-30, for friendship first. Decatur ☎5492

SOFT-BUTCH TEDDY BEAR
SF, 34, 5'9", 250lbs, seeks her soft-butch teddy bear. She's a SWF, around 40, gives good hugs, likes movies, music, reading, goofing off, having fun. Possible LTR. Marietta ☎5302

FEMME SEEKS BUTCH
Romantic, honest, loving GWF, 45, 5'7", seeks special butch GF to adore, for friendship, possible LTR. Norcross ☎5517

GIVE ME A CALL
Attractive GWPF, mid-40s, loves travel, candlelight dinners, the outdoors, quiet evenings at home. Seeking feminine, attractive GWF, for possible LTR. Lawrenceville ☎5033

PRINCESS WANTED
Me: attractive GBF, 30, soft stud. You: attractive, feminine GF, 27-35. Us: Heaven only knows... Roswell ☎5273

I LIKE THE GIRL IN YOU...
and you'll like the soft butch in me. Female, 44, 5'5", enjoys fun, music, and dwelling in possibility. Seeking forever-minded female, N/S, N/D, N/Drugs. Stone Mountain ☎5359

I'M HERE, WHERE ARE YOU?
SF, 43, with MS, is seeking a feminine BF to spend time with, maybe more. Douglasville ☎5538

I CAN GO DEEP
GBPF, 34, 5'5", 140lbs, very good-looking, tomboy type. Seeking intelligent, beautiful, independent GBF, for friendship and casual dating. Must love to laugh. Byron ☎5542

SOUTHERN CHARM
SWPF, 39, soft butch, good sense of humor, gentle nature, relaxed but playful, enjoys listening to acoustic performers, let's do coffee. Atlanta ☎5439

Just Friends

FRIENDSHIP
GWM couple seeks GWM, N/S, no drugs, not into bars, for friendship. Lawrenceville ☎4320

NEED A FRIEND?
GWF, 48, enjoys outdoors, dining, intelligent conversation. Seeking GWF, 36+, for friendship. Covington ☎3956

Bisexuals

TIME FOR US
Very attractive, sweet GWF, 44, N/D, drug-free, seeks G/BiWF, 35-70, N/D, drug-free, who enjoys yard sales, movies, animals, cook outs, dining out, for LTR. North Carolina area. Elkin ☎5540

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ATL requires DP benefits for city contracts

Landmark 'equal benefits' ordinance passes City Council, now awaits approval from Mayor Bill Campbell

by ERIC ERICKSON

A last minute move by an outgoing city politician may put Atlanta in an elite group of cities requiring private businesses to offer domestic partner benefits to be eligible for city contracts.

During Monday's marathon Atlanta City Council meeting, the last before new City Council members and the new mayor take office in January, the Council voted 12-1 in favor of the brief ordinance sponsored by City Council member Michael Bond.

"The City shall not enter into contracts of any kind with any business that discriminates in the provision of benefits between employees with domestic partners and other employees, to the extent allowed by law," reads the legislation, which amends Article X of the city's procurement and real estate code.

It specifies DP benefits include, but are not limited to, "medical insurance, retirement plans, leaves of absence, use of company facilities and company discounts."

"It amends our code in specific sections where we already have prohibitions against different statues for not doing business with companies," Bond said.

Bond, who did not run again for his District 3 seat in order to run for City Council president, introduced in October legislation aimed at requiring "equal benefits" for all city contractors. The proposal came after a promise Bond made during a campaign sponsored by the Atlanta Executive Network, a gay business group.

Bond lost his bid for City Council president in the Nov. 27 runoff to Council member Cathy Woolard, who is gay.

In 1997, San Francisco approved its Equal Benefits Ordinance and became the first city in the country to require city contractors to provide domestic partner benefits to gay and lesbian employees if the company provides spouse benefits to married heterosexuals.

San Francisco officials say more than 2,000 companies have begun offering domestic partner benefits in order to comply with the EBO there.

Similar policies have been enacted in Seattle, Los Angeles, Berkeley, and San Mateo County in California, and Florida's Broward County has taken similar steps, according to the Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund.

Measure goes to mayor

Atlanta's equal benefits ordinance now goes to lame duck Atlanta Mayor Bill Campbell, who can sign it into law, veto it, or allow it to become law without his signature.

Running for re-election the same year San Francisco enacted its EBO, Campbell told Southern Voice he would consider issuing an executive order to do the same.

But Campbell has taken no public action on an EBO since 1997, and his staff has repeatedly refused to answer specific questions about the issue, saying only that he would continue to "consider" it.

Campbell was unavailable for comment on the legislation this week.

Nia Robertson, a spokesperson with the mayor's office, said Campbell has eight calendar days to sign or veto the legislation. If he does neither, the legislation automatically becomes law.

Before reaching the mayor's desk, the ordinance will be passed onto the city clerk's office and then to the chief of staff, who will make a recommendation and pass it along to the mayor. Robertson said the mayor has until midnight on the eighth day after receiving the legislation to make his decision.

Bond said he does not expect the mayor to veto the EBO.

New leaders support concept

Should the new EBO ordinance run into problems under the current administration, it may see light again when the city's new leadership takes the helm next month.

Mayor-elect Shirley Franklin pledged to "strongly support" an equal benefits ordinance during her campaign. She reiterated that support on Tuesday, but said she had not yet seen the specific legislation passed a day earlier.

"I would want to see the legislation, talk to Cathy Woolard again, which I expect to do later this week, and have the advice of counsel," said Franklin. "But the spirit of it I agree with."

Woolard, currently the City Council member from District 6, is now City Council president-elect. Both Woolard and Franklin will take office Jan. 7.

Woolard voted for Bond's ordinance on Monday, but was out of the office and could not be reached for comment Tuesday. Last week, she said she supports the idea of an EBO, but she wanted to work with Franklin's mayoral administration to make sure that legislation passed by the City Council would have sufficient resources and mechanisms for enforcement.

R.O. YOUNGBLOOD

On Monday, the Atlanta City Council passed an equal benefits ordinance sponsored by City Council member Michael Bond, who lost his bid for City Council president to Cathy Woolard, a gay City Council member.

No guidance for enforcement

The EBO ordinance sponsored by Bond does not specify what city department or office will be responsible for enforcing or implementing the law.

Christie Cross, an attorney with the city's law department, said because the law was just passed, it has not been decided who will implement the legislation. Cross did say it will most likely be enforced by the Bureau of Purchasing & Real Estate.

How the EBO will be monitored and enforced is a crucial issue, according to officials in San Francisco, where an EBO has now been in place for four years.

"Unlike other cities, we do a very thorough analysis of a company before a contract is executed — not before the bid and not before a company's selection, but before the contract even begins," said Cynthia Goldstein, contract compliance officer for the City of San Francisco.

"We think that's very important. Even if

➢ Continued on Page 6

INSIDE

Atlanta's Human Relations Commission refuses to act on a complaint filed by a gay man against District 5 City Council member Sherry Dorsey, who lost her bid for re-election last month.
Page 3

Bridget Johnson, a lesbian who is HIV-positive, is no longer homeless thanks to help from the Edgewood, an assisted housing facility. But the non-profit home needs donations to help make ends meet.
Page 9

Where have all the drag queens gone? Local female impersonators reflect on why Atlanta, once known for extravagant drag productions, has seen a decline in popularity of the art.
Page 17

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Calls renewed for Winn-Dixie boycott over firing

NEW ORLEANS — A second delay in the two-year-old civil case against Winn-Dixie Stores for firing New Orleans area resident Peter Oiler because he cross-dressed off duty has pushed a trial to next July. The postponement comes as transgender activists are planning to relaunch a boycott of the grocery chain. The ACLU filed a lawsuit against Winn-Dixie in October 2000 on behalf of Oiler, arguing that Winn-Dixie violated his right to privacy and federal civil rights laws. Depositions in the case will continue next week. "December will be a difficult month for Winn-Dixie because not only are we repeating an organized effort against them at the grassroots level, but we're going back to New Orleans for an entire week to do more depositions with top Winn-Dixie executives," said Eric Ferrero, public education director for the ACLU's Gay & Lesbian Rights Project. The boycott this year is scheduled through Jan. 5, the second anniversary of Oiler's firing.

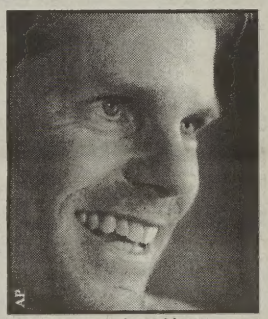
For more on this story, visit www.sovo.com.

Redistricting map cuts at gay clout in Texas legislature

HOUSTON — Gay voting clout at the state level appears to have taken a severe blow with a decision last week by a three-judge federal panel, according to the Houston Voice. The panel adopted a redistricting plan drawn by Republicans that takes control of the Texas Legislature away from Democrats. Gay-friendly state Rep. Debra Danburg (D-Houston), whose district included heavily-gay neighborhoods, now faces a tough bid for re-election next year under the new lines. Also, Glenn Maxey of Austin, the state's only openly gay legislator, was put into a district with two liberal colleagues. State Rep. Harryette Ehrhardt (D-Dallas) — another gay-friendly legislator — has lost much of her base of voting support. "When [State Attorney General] John Cornyn drafted this plan... he worked very hard to purge those who are openly and proactively helpful on gay issues," Danburg said.

Artist's mammoth painting for AIDS causes unveiled in N.C.

MORRISVILLE, N.C. (AP) — In the five years since Eric Waugh began work on a painting twice as tall as the Statue of Liberty, 38 boys and girls who attended a camp for children affected by AIDS and HIV have died. That was all the inspiration Waugh needed to work 21-hour days over the past three weeks to complete, "Hero," which was unveiled Saturday — World AIDS Day — on the grounds of the North Carolina Museum of Art. After the one-time showing, the 41,400-square-foot painting was cut into 1-square-foot pieces and sold on sponsor art.com's Web site. Waugh hopes to raise $4 million to be divided between Camp Heartland in Minnesota and Los Angeles-based Starlight Children's Foundation, which helps seriously ill children. As he worked frantically to complete the work, and sort out funding and the logistics of moving the painting's 1,656 5-foot sections from his studio in Montreal to Raleigh, "I got frustrated for about 30 seconds," Waugh said. "But I'm here painting in my safe little studio, and I'm healthy, and that's not so bad."


AP

Eric Waugh used World AIDS Day to unveil a 41,400-square-foot painting in North Carolina that he hopes will raise $4 million for two AIDS agencies.

Senate candidate in N.C. may instead run for House seat

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Former Superior Court judge Ray Warren, who is gay and announced in October that he would seek the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by Jesse Helms, said Dec. 1 that he may run for U.S. House instead. Warren, 44, a Democrat, said he may seek the 8th District seat now held by Republican Robin Hayes. "It may be that a congressional primary is a more effective way to utilize our campaign resources at this time," Warren said in a news release. He said changes in the congressional district approved by state lawmakers this week, which include bringing portions of his home county, Mecklenburg, into the district, make it an attractive race. Warren is a former Republican who changed party in 1999, a year after saying that he is gay. He is one of five Democrats who has announced he will seek his party's nomination for U.S. Senate.

Officials: Syphilis on rise in Fla. in part over gay sex

MIAMI (AP) — Syphilis is on the rise again in Florida, likely as a result of the state's success in fighting the disease in the 1980s and early 1990s and an increase in men having men sex with men, health officials said Nov. 28. The state Department of Health has recorded 440 syphilis cases this year through early November, up from 413 cases reported by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention for all of 2000. National numbers, meanwhile, have dropped to an all-time low, though the CDC said last week that in some large cities, gay men are fueling an increase in the disease. "The suspicion for the disease is gone," said Schmitt. "If syphilis is not on their radar screen, (health care) providers aren't thinking syphilis." There are more men having sex with men in certain parts of the state, increasing the risk of the spread of syphilis, Schmitt said.

—From staff and wire reports

Bias panel rejects complaint by gay man

Emotional plea fails to persuade panel to take action against elected official

by JENNIFER J. SMITH

In a scathing review of Atlanta's still fledgling Human Relations Commission, a gay man who filed a complaint with the panel unloaded his frustration and dissatisfaction during its meeting last week.

David Payne's emotional reaction came Nov. 30 after the bias panel declined to pursue his claims against City Council member Sherry Dorsey, who was ousted from office in last month's elections.

"This is incredibly frustrating for me, it's incredibly frustrating for her gay constituents in East Atlanta," Payne said before breaking into tears. "Council member Dorsey has been discriminating against gays and whites for years, and no one is willing to do anything about it."

Dorsey, elected in 1997, has long been the subject of complaints by gay residents of her District 5. Dorsey is the wife of former DeKalb Sheriff Sidney Dorsey, who was charged last week with the year-old murder of Sheriff-elect Derwin Brown.

Sherry Dorsey has repeatedly not responded to calls for comment about Payne's complaint against her.

The bias panel was created early this year by landmark non-discrimination legislation authored by City Council President-elect Cathy Woolard, a lesbian who was District 6 representative at the time the legislation passed.

It is charged with investigating discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodation by private employers. Three complaints have been filed with the panel.

The lack of complaints is a result of the committee's low profile and the lack of public awareness, said Chair Karen Patton, a lesbian attorney.

Payne filed a 300-page complaint against Dorsey on behalf of himself and 100 other East Atlanta residents. Payne claimed Dorsey routinely barred white residents from "invitation only" neighborhood planning meetings and orchestrated opposition to gay business owners and gay residents in a 1998 flare-up of racial and anti-gay tensions in Kirkwood.

The complaint, originally filed with the City of Atlanta Ethics Committee in 1999, according to Payne, was rejected as "not in their jurisdiction." It was forwarded to the bias panel in September after being floated through other City Hall offices.

The committee briefly discussed Payne's complaint before deciding to dismiss it.

"My guess is Mr. Payne would not want to go forward with this complaint given Council member Dorsey was not re-elected," said Ken Britt, a gay attorney and bias panel member.

Patton said Dorsey's behavior, "while not appropriate," "did not fall under our purview."

Payne and partner Dale Warren entered the small City Council conference room after the group made its final ruling, "hoping to find out why I hadn't been notified they had received my complaint, why I hadn't been asked for any information, and why I hadn't been told about a meeting where they would be ruling on my complaint," Payne said after the meeting.

The panel's guidelines require a complaint be investigated within 30 days of filing, but complainants are only notified when an investigation is opened, according to Patton.

Since an investigation was never opened on Payne's complaint, he was not notified, she said.

"This complaint was unfortunately delayed while we tried to ascertain whether it was appropriate for us to handle it," Patton said.

After the meeting, Payne spoke with City Council member Felicia Moore, who was "disappointed" in the vote. She agreed to consider writing legislation that would give the bias panel jurisdiction over the behavior of members of the City Council, Payne said.

R.O. YOUNGBLOOD

A complaint from a gay Atlanta resident against Sherry Dorsey, the District 5 City Council member who was defeated in last month's election, was dismissed last week by the Atlanta Human Relations Commission.

Of the three complaints filed before the HRC, two contain allegations of bias based on sexual orientation: Payne's, and one filed July 9 by John W. Snyder, a gay sales representative for Johnson & Johnson subsidiary Ethicon, Inc., who says he suffered harassment after a company official used the anti-gay epithet "packer" during a training meeting.

An out of court settlement was expected soon in Snyder's complaint.

Also on Nov. 30, the bias panel ruled in the third case, declining a complaint alleging gender discrimination in hiring at an all-female residential facility.

INFO

Atlanta Human Relations Commission
Atlanta City Hall
55 Trinity Ave. SW
Atlanta, GA 30335
www.ci.atlanta.ga.us

To file a bias complaint in Atlanta
Rhonda Johnson
Atlanta Municipal Clerk
55 Trinity Ave. SW, Suite 2700
Atlanta, GA 30335
404-330-6031

Gays target Chambliss campaign for Senate

Conservative lawmaker organizing race to unseat gay-friendly Cleland

by JENNIFER J. SMITH

About 20 gay and Muslim protestors chanted "You're paying for hate, $1,000 a plate" outside a Nov. 30 fund-raiser in Atlanta for U.S. Rep. Saxby Chambliss, a south Georgia Republican who's mounting a campaign against U.S. Sen. Max Cleland.

The protest marked the spark of interest that is sure to broaden as Chambliss, a fourth term conservative from Moultrie, tries to unseat Cleland, a liberal first-term senator who favors gay civil rights, in next November's election.

"It's not right having someone running for senator who discriminates against a large number of Georgians," said Monica Helms, executive director of Trans=Action, a transgendered advocacy group. "As soon as I heard he was running, I signed up to volunteer for Cleland."

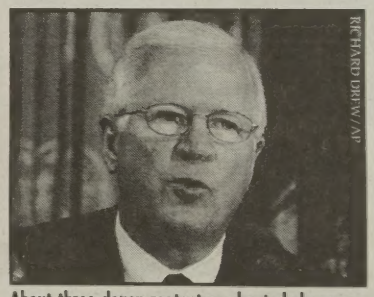
The protest last week came after Chambliss, who was recently named to chair the House subcommittee on Terrorism & Homeland Security, made comments during a forum in Valdosta that suggested the local sheriff round up and arrest Muslims who enter the state.

Local and national Islamic leaders criticized Chambliss for the remarks.

Chambliss was the guest of honor at the $1,000-per-plate fund-raiser and announcement party hosted by Aaron Rents owner Charles Loudermilk, a prominent Republican fund raiser.

Helms joined members from Georgia Stonewall Democrats and Trans=Action, along with several Muslims, at the protest. They held up signs reading "Bigotry is Terrorism" and "Saxby for Civilian" as a line of about 300 attendees passed by.

"We're here to let Rep. Chambliss know it is not OK to discriminate against minorities. His words were hurtful and offensive," said Issam Nashashibi, a protestor and member of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee-Georgia.



RICHARD DREW/AP

About three-dozen protestors chanted slogans before a recent Atlanta fund-raiser for U.S. Rep. Saxby Chambliss (above), who is trying to unseat U.S. Sen. Max Cleland next year.

Chambliss supporters said he has since apologized for advocating the arrest of all Muslims as they crossed the state line as a way of combating domestic terrorism.

"He's apologized for that, and you can either accept his apology or not," Tom Perdue, a longtime Chambliss consultant, told protesters on Nov. 30.

Perdue spoke with the protesters outside the event, offering them drinks and use of bathrooms inside, and set up a meeting next week between Nashashibi and senior Chambliss staff.

Perdue did not set up a meeting between Chambliss staffers and gay or transgendered protesters, "because they didn't ask for one," Perdue said.

Perdue declined to answer questions about Chambliss's voting record and referred questions to Rob Leebern, his chief of staff. Leebern was attending a legislative retreat and unavailable for comment, according to staff members. Chambliss' office did not return calls requesting comment by press time.

Chambliss has a history of anti-gay votes, according to Congressional voting records, including prohibiting funds from being used to enforce anti-bias legislation in 1998 and supporting a ban on gay adoption in 1998.

"Saxby rates a consistent zero out of 100 on the HRC scorecard," said Winnie Stachelberg, political director of the Washington, D.C.-based Human Rights Campaign.

Cleland, who was endorsed by the HRC, has been a consistent supporter of gay civil rights since he won his Senate seat, often appearing at local or national HRC functions.

Cleland's campaign manager declined comment on the upcoming election. Cleland's Senate office did not respond to interview requests.

INFO

U.S. Sen. Max Cleland
461 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510-1005
call: 202-224-3521
fax: 202-224-0072
cleland.senate.gov

U.S. Rep. Saxby Chambliss
1019 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515-1008
call: 202-225-6531
fax: 202-225-3013
www.house.gov/chambliss

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ATL AIDS group offers info session on services

ATLANTA — In an effort educate people about emerging and changing services available, AIDS Survival Project will host "Healthy Choices = Healthy Lives" on Dec. 10 from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m.. Representatives from metro Atlanta AIDS service organizations will speak, focusing on how to get the most out of their programs and services. This session will include presentations by two service providers, the Brandon Ross Abernathy Center and AID Atlanta. Additionally, Rev. Lesley Broagan of the Central Congregation United Church of Christ will speak about dealing with holiday stress.

"Because ASP is often the point of entry into the system of HIV care in Atlanta, ASP staff and volunteers have seen how little many people know about the services that are available," said Jeff Smith, ASP's program manager. The series will be a bi-monthly gathering; the next meeting is scheduled for Feb. 9. Pre-registration for the program is required.

INFO
Healthy Choices = Healthy Lives
Dec. 10, 10 a.m.
159 Ralph McGill Blvd.
Pre-registration required
Contact: Jeff Smith
404-874-7926 ext 12

Gay men's chorus set for holiday concert in ATL

ATLANTA — The Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus will be sure to "Put a Little Holiday in your Heart" with performances at St. Philip Church on Dec. 14-15. "Traditions," the Chorus' 21st annual holiday concert, will feature music of the season with works including, "Ave Maria, " Betelehemu" and "Masters in this Hall." The group will also debut two new songs of diversity, "Over the Skies of Yisrael" and "Light the Legend." This marks the sixth year at St. Philip for AGMC and the second year under the guidance of Leslie Blackwell, the group's artistic director. Blackwell is employed as director of choral music at Kennesaw State University. "An Evening at St. Philip" will include move than 100 members of AGMC and a small orchestra. Advance tickets can be purchased at Chapter 11 Bookstore in Ansley Mall, Outwrite Bookstore, or from the AGMC Web site. Tickets will be available the day of the concerts at a slightly higher fee.

BILL AUSTIN
The Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus is readying for its 21st annual holiday concert, set for Dec. 14-15 at St. Philip Church.

INFO
AGMC 'An Evening at St. Philip'
Dec. 14-15, 8 p.m.
St. Philip's Cathedral
2744 Peachtree St.
Advance tickets: $15, $25, $35
404-320-1030
www.agmchorus.org

Lesbian cancer group to hold vigil in ATL

ATLANTA — The Atlanta Lesbian Cancer Initiative will hold a vigil on Dec. 17. The ceremony, officiated by Dr. Shirlene Holmes, is not just for lesbians but for all family members and friends who have lost someone they love, according to Shelly Robbins, a volunteer coordinator for ALCI.

In 1999, the non-profit organization held a workshop dealing with grief and the holidays that later turned into a remembrance service. "This time of year memories will surface and many people feel an acute sense of loss," said Holmes, a five-time cancer survivor. "We need to be with others who are sharing a loss and accept that sometimes we are going to cry, or get angry and it's okay." Holmes is an ordained minister at Hillside Chapel & Truth Center in Southwest Atlanta.

INFO
Atlanta Lesbian Cancer Initiative
Remembrance service
Dec. 17, 7 p.m.
1530 DeKalb Avenue NE
Suite A
Atlanta GA 30307
404-688-2524
www.alci.org

Gay church in ATL readies for holiday musical

ATLANTA — First Metropolitan Community Church of Atlanta will stage its annual holiday musical on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 8-9. "Welcome to Our World" spotlights the musical talents of the congregation's choir and newly formed orchestra. During the show, singers will join together forming a replica of a giant Christmas tree, stretching upward toward the ceiling, according to Rev. Paul Graetz, senior pastor of the church.

"Our music industry has grown more than 200 percent this year, including the addition of an orchestra," Graetz said. "The program gives us a fun way to showcase the congregations musical talents." The musical production begins both nights at 8 p.m. with a silent auction of holiday gifts and artwork during intermission. The event is free and open to the public.

—Compiled by Andrew Keegan

INFO
First MCC Christmas Musical
Dec. 8-9, 8 p.m.
1379 Tullie Road
Atlanta, GA 30329
404-325-4143
www.firstmcc.com

Gay man brings protest against Coke to ATL

Court dismisses harassment complaint, but John Bibby continues to argue his case

by ERIC ERICKSON

The gay man who sued a Coca-Cola bottling company in Philadelphia for harassment said he wants officials at the soft drink manufacturer's Atlanta headquarters to hear his message.

John J. Bibby planned to picket the Atlanta offices of Coca-Cola Company for three days this week, an action that comes after a federal court judge ruled against him in August, throwing out his case against the Philadelphia Coca-Cola Bottling Co.

Bibby, 41, filed suit against the bottling company in 1998, saying he endured sexual harassment based on his sexual orientation. Bibby's attorney, Arthur Jarrett, encouraged the court to interpret Title VII, the 1964 federal civil rights law, to include more than just gender and sexual conduct.

"We went to federal court, and the federal judge ruled that even though it's wrong what they're doing, that the Supreme Court never mentioned sexual orientation when they passed that law of same sex harassment," Bibby said.

The three-judge panel upheld a lower court's ruling, affirming that gay employees cannot sue for harassment based on their sexual orientation under federal sex discrimination laws.

"Harassment on the basis of sexual orientation has no place in our society," said Judge Maryanne Trump Barry, writing for the panel. "Congress has not yet seen fit, however, to provide protection against such harassment."

Bibby's attorney has said he is considering appealing the decision to the U.S. Supreme Court.

While Bibby's alleged harassment happened in Pennsylvania, he has taken his case to Washington where he's picketed the Supreme Court and now to Atlanta where he will stand outside Coca-Cola's headquarters in Midtown telling his story.

"I'm going down there because of the hostile treatment I continue to suffer. I've written to them several times, letting them know I asked them to come investigate," Bibby said.

Bibby said he has not received any response from the Coca-Cola Company's corporate headquarters.

Bill Marks, vice-president of public relations for Coca-Cola North America, said he would not comment on the case. Coca-Cola and the Philadelphia Bottling Company are separate corporations, he said.

"I would not be able to react because it's a separate company. It is an issue there," Marks said. "The bottling companies are independent companies. That's also an independent company. I'm not in the position to speak for them."

Bibby said he still wants to convey his message to Coke leaders and customers.

"If I filed a federal case and it goes in the media, it makes all of Coca-Cola look bad. If something happens at one Coca-Cola and people read it at different cities they're going to think that's Coca-Cola's opinion throughout," Bibby said.

Repeated phone calls to the Philadelphia bottling company's marketing department were not returned.

Bibby, a lab technician at the North Philadelphia plant, said he began having medical problems in 1993, including weight loss, breathing problems and vomiting blood, according to the Associated Press.

Suspended after he was found Aug. 12, 1993, with his eyes closed and a machine for which he was responsible malfunctioning with the product destroyed, Bibby was told he would be terminated. He was reinstated after he filed a grievance.

When he returned to work, he said co-workers verbally and physically threatened him.

"[My co-worker] kept saying 'everyone knows you're a faggot' three times," Bibby said in an interview this week. "And he said 'everyone knows you're as gay as a three dollar bill' and then he said 'everyone knows you take it up the ass' three times. And that's when I said I'm filing harassment charges."

John Bibby's harassment lawsuit against a Coca-Cola bottling plant was dismissed in August, but he's bringing his protest to the soft drink manufacturer's Atlanta headquarters.

INFO

Philadelphia Coca-Cola Bottling Company
725 E. Erie Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19134
call: 215-427-4500
fax: 215-423-5557

Coca-Cola North America
P.O. Box 1734
Atlanta, GA, USA 30301
404-676-2121
www.coca-cola.com

Gay tolerance hits two ATL high schools

Enlight Atlanta helps kick start the first gay student group in Atlanta city schools

by ERIC ERICKSON

Two metro Atlanta high schools are taking the lead in promoting tolerance of gay men and lesbians.

A small group of students at Grady High School in Midtown has organized a gay-straight alliance for gay students and their straight friends, a first for the city school system.

"We realized there wasn't really a group at our school that represented the minority of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning," said Katy Means, the group's co-founder. "We recognized there was a need for that because there's a lot of people that we knew that would want something like that and need support in a place where they could readily get it. That would be school for a lot of people."

Means and co-founder Michael Crachiolo started the group after attending a workshop hosted by Enlight Atlanta, a non-profit group promoting tolerance in schools.

Steve Epstein, Enlight's executive director, said the Grady group is the first GSA in the city's public school system. Enlight donated $200 to help launch the group.

"We are seeing significant developments," Epstein said. "It's a process because the students have to get to the point emotionally where they can handle taking on this responsibility and all that is implied with it. They're going to possibly have to endure some harassment at school."

Means said that hasn't happened to any of her peers at Grady. She said faculty members have been supportive of the venture. Vincent Murray, Grade's principal, is featured in Enlight's winter newsletter with a caption praising his support of the student's venture.

Murray was out of the office and could not be reached for comment by press time, according to Grady staff.

Meanwhile, Enlight took its gay-straight message of tolerance to DeKalb County's Lakeside High School last month when it hosted a Safe School Forum for 40 students, faculty and PTA members.

The event was organized to educate participants on how to combat discrimination in schools; it started with the presentation of a $200 check to the Lakeside High School GSA.

Epstein said this is the first time an organization has given a presentation about gay tolerance at any public school in Georgia.

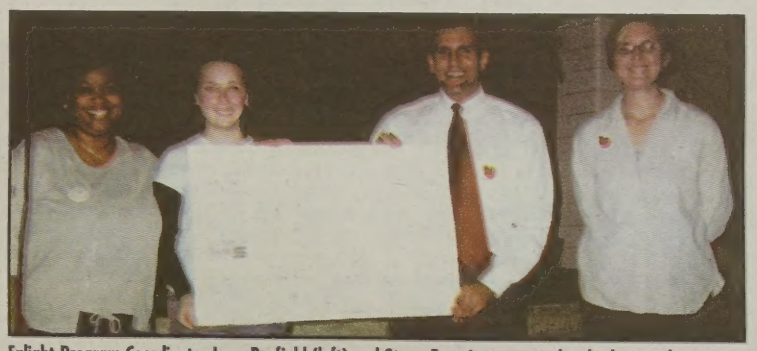
While Enlight is implementing a series of programs around the city, they are facing tough financial times, due to the economic recession in the U.S. Epstein said the organization is eliminating one position, an event coordinator.

"The down-turn in the economy was much more dramatic than we had expected," Epstein said.

Epstein said the past year has also been tough because it was the first year of existence for the group, which broke off from the Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network last year to become an independent organization. Officials from both groups continue to refuse to discuss the split.

"Being a new organization, we're just developing our donor base, it's a lot tougher," Epstein said. "We do not want to sacrifice our programming. To us that is critical."

But despite the financial pinch, Epstein said the group is searching for a new office. He said the group hopes to find a new home by the end of the month.



Enlight Program Coordinator Lynn Barfield (left) and Steve Epstein, presented a check recently to Lakeside GSA President Cathryn Testerman, and Nicole Wilson, the group's advisor.

INFO

Enlight Atlanta
P.O. Box 8597
Atlanta, GA 31106
404-872-4320
www.enlight-atlanta.org

Gay votes, dollars went to Woolard

Voter turnout also higher in gay-identified precincts during runoff, analysis shows

by LAURA DOUGLAS-BROWN

Last week's historic runoff election victory by Cathy Woolard to become Atlanta City Council president benefited from an increase in votes in 17 gay-identified precincts throughout the city, a Southern Voice analysis shows.

Voter turnout also rose slightly in gay-identified precincts in the Nov. 27 election that lifted Woolard, who became Georgia's first openly gay elected official in 1997, into the highest ranks of gay politicians nationwide.

The newspaper analyzed vote counts in 17 precincts identified as having substantial gay populations by Georgia Equality, the statewide nonpartisan gay political group. The gay-identified precincts include areas in Grant Park, Ormewood Park, East Atlanta, Lake Claire, Candler Park, Morningside, Virginia-Highland and other areas of Midtown.

"I think we will see higher levels of turnout in the so-called gay precincts," Woolard predicted last week, just hours after her victory became clear. "I don't think the gay vote is monolithic, but I do think the gay community participates both as donors and volunteers, as well as voters."

Overall voter turnout for the runoff reached only 20.49 percent, according to the Fulton County Board of Elections. In the gay-identified precincts, turnout averaged 23.79 percent.

Woolard took 55 percent of the overall vote in the runoff, while opponent and fellow Atlanta City Council member Michael Bond received 45 percent.

In the 17-gay identified precincts, Woolard's share of the votes jumped to an average of 82 percent, while Bond's fell to just 18 percent.

The jump in votes for Woolard follows a pattern similar to the Nov. 6 vote that boosted Bond and Woolard out of the original field of five candidates and put them into a runoff.

Woolard received 28 percent of the overall vote on Nov. 6, but averaged 61 percent in the gay-identified precincts. Bond received 32 percent of the general election vote overall, yet averaged only 13 percent in the city's gayest areas.

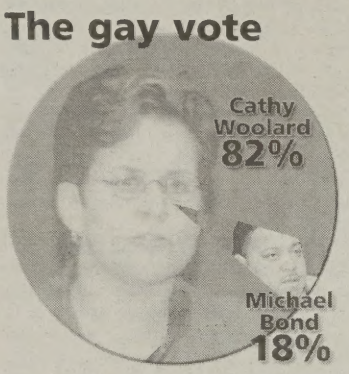
Still, documenting the "gay vote" remains difficult and imprecise, because voters do not identify their sexual orientation in demographic information, and no group conducts comprehensive exit polling in Georgia.

Instead, political observers attempt to study voting patterns in areas known for large gay populations, although such studies will always include some heterosexuals who live in areas popular with gays, and exclude gays who live in other areas.

Overall, Woolard carried six of the 12 City Council districts — 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8 — and did best in northside districts 6, 7 and 8, taking between up to 95 percent of the vote in each.

The majority of gay-identified precincts — nine of 17 — fall in District 6, the district Woolard currently represents and that campaign strategists viewed as the base of her support.

Widespread approval for Woolard throughout District 6 makes the gay vote more difficult to document there, but analysis of precincts in other areas of the city provide a clearer example.



Cathy Woolard took 55 percent of the overall vote to win her race for Atlanta City Council president, but her share of the vote jumped to an average of 82 percent in 17 precincts with large gay populations, compared to 18 percent for opponent Michael Bond.

While Woolard won District 1, she took only 58 percent of the overall vote. Yet in District 1's two gay-identified precincts of Grant Park and Ormewood Park, she averaged 84 percent of the vote.

"Clearly intown neighborhoods in general responded well to Cathy and her message, and that is where we find large concentrations of gay voters, whether in the neighborhoods in District 6 or in other areas such as Grant Park, Kirkwood and the Old Fourth Ward," said Woolard campaign strategist Beth Schapiro, president of Schapiro Research Group.

Gay political power also isn't limited to just votes, political observers stressed.

Woolard's campaign finance disclosure forms show strong support from gay donors. Just her last form on file, covering the period leading up to the runoff, shows dozens of donations from gay supporters who gave more than $100, including at least 10 who gave the legal maximum of $1,000.

"Although Cathy appealed to a much broader constituency than just LGBT folks, the gay community was the backbone of her support both financially and in volunteers," said Harry Knox, executive director of Georgia Equality, one of the gay organizations that endorsed Woolard.

The Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund, a national group that supports viable gay candidates, also endorsed Woolard. The Victory Fund PAC made donations directly to Woolard's campaign, and also "funneled" donations from its supporters around the country.

Brian Bond, Victory Fund executive director, declined comment on the exact amount of money donated to Woolard through the Fund.

While the vast majority of Woolard's donations came from local supporters, her financial disclosures did list several well-known gays from around the country.

They included Bond, openly gay Democratic National Committee Treasurer Andrew Tobias; Ken South, director of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force's aging initiative; Human Rights Campaign Political Director Winnie Stachelberg; and Hilary Rosen, partner of HRC Executive Director Elizabeth Birch.

Equal benefits ordinance awaits mayor's nod

➢ Continued from Page 1

a company is asserting in good faith that they comply with EBO, sometimes they don't know what it means to eliminate discrimination from all of their other benefits," Goldstein said.

San Francisco's EBO is enforced through the city's Human Relations Commission, which is staffed and funded through the city budget.

"We estimated five [full time employees] working on the EBO part of HRC, and that is out of approximately 50 employees," Goldstein said.

"As far as budgets, for the staff it's around $350,000," Goldstein said. "In terms of overhead, there's no way to know, but other additional expenses would not be likely to increase that amount significantly."

Long road to EBO

This week's development with Atlanta's equal benefits ordinance is the latest in a string of moves that bounced the legislation back and forth from the full City Council to a Council committee to the city's law department, forcing the bill to be held several times before being seeing a final vote.

Bond initially presented an ordinance dealing with DP benefits and city contractors in October. That ordinance was held in the finance-executive committee because the committee said it was "too vague."

Bond's original ordinance did not actually establish a new law, and instead simply directed the law department to write such a law. During the meeting when it was introduced, City Council member Lee Morris, chair of the finance-executive committee, said the council does not normally pass a law directing a city department to write an ordinance.

After a request from the finance-executive committee, the city law department said they would voluntarily write up a new piece of actual legislation requiring city contractors to offer DP benefits. The second law was also held in the finance-executive committee.

"We held that one in the finance committee because the Finance Department and the Bureau of Purchasing & Real Estate were saying this was too major of a change," Morris said. "We don't know what the impact on our bidders will be. The concern from purchasing was that many small and medium-sized firms cannot purchase domestic partnership insurance coverage and therefore we won't have bidders for our work and so we held that."

Because the second ordinance was held twice in committee, Bond was able to bring it up at this week's council meeting for a full vote.

When the new law was passed Monday night, Bond said there was little discussion and no amendments.

While Morris said he supports the ordinance conceptually, he was the one dissenting vote. Morris said he regrets the lack of discussion about the legislation and he had hoped the bill would have been held so the next mayor and council could have examined it further.

"I think it needs a lot more thoughtfulness," Morris said. "It's basically one paragraph and we really did not have any public debate or comment or any kind of opportunity for the business community to come and state how and whether they could comply with it."

Bond also faced allegations that he was introducing the legislation during his campaign for City Council president to help bolster his support.

"I know everyone said it was a stunt. That kind of disheartened me," Bond said. "I wanted to disprove that. It wasn't an election ploy. I am very serious about the type of legislation I put in. I've said all along it was not a political stunt. I always keep my promises ... and I was going to keep that commitment."

—Laura Douglas-Brown and Jennifer J. Smith contributed.

INFO

Mayor Bill Campbell
55 Trinity Ave SW Suite 2400
Atlanta, GA 30303
404-330-6100

Atlanta City Council
55 Trinity Ave. SW suite 2900
Atlanta, GA 30303
404-330-6030

ATL gays prepare Hanukkah celebration

by ANDREW KEEGAN

Members of Atlanta's predominately gay synagogue say this year's celebration of Hanukkah, the Jewish holiday that begins at sundown Dec. 9, will hold special meaning in the wake of the recent terrorist attacks.

"This is called the Festival of Lights because it's about bringing the light into the darkness," said Rabbi Joshua Lesser of Congregation Bet Haverim. "After Sept. 11, we have all felt a period of darkness and now it's time to look toward the light."

Hanukkah spans eight days, signifying the Maccabees' victory over the Syrians in 165 BC. and the rededicating of the Temple of Jerusalem.

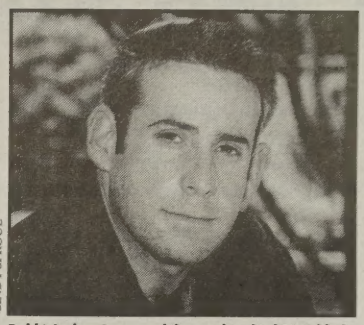
. The nature of the holiday lends itself to themes of family togetherness, miracles and the triumph of religious freedom, Lesser said. "The eight day observance will be a time for gays to reflect on claiming both their Jewish identity along with their gay identity," he said.

Lesser, the congregation's first full-time rabbi, will be celebrating his third Hanukkah at Bet Haverim, a Reconstructionist synagogue that brings progressive Jews together from different backgrounds.

INFO

Congregation Bet Haverim

Shabbath
Dec. 14, 7:30 p.m.
Hanukkah party
Dec. 15, 5:30 p.m.
701 W. Howard St.
Decatur, GA
404-607-0054
www.congregationbethaverim.org



CINDY SPROUL

Rabbi Joshua Lesser celebrates his third Hanukkah with Congregation Bet Haverim on Dec. 15.

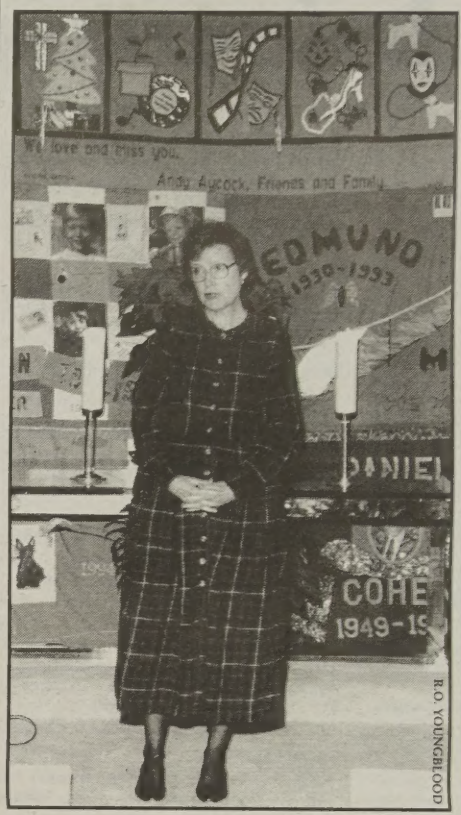
The congregation will hold a Hanukkah party on Dec. 15. The event will feature "the lighting of the menorah, songs, storytelling and lots of traditional food," said Lesser. "The atmosphere is very similar to a festival with arts and crafts."

There will also be a gift exchange and community lighting of individual menorahs to signify unity.

A highlight of the evening will be the presentation of the "Edie Cohen Award," according to Lesser.

"We have a current member who has always been a snazzy dresser," he said. "So, in her honor, we will select a member of the congregation who best exemplifies the characteristics of a meticulous dresser."

Although the award has no spiritual significance to Hanukkah, it is great fun, Lesser said.



R.O. YOUNGBLOOD

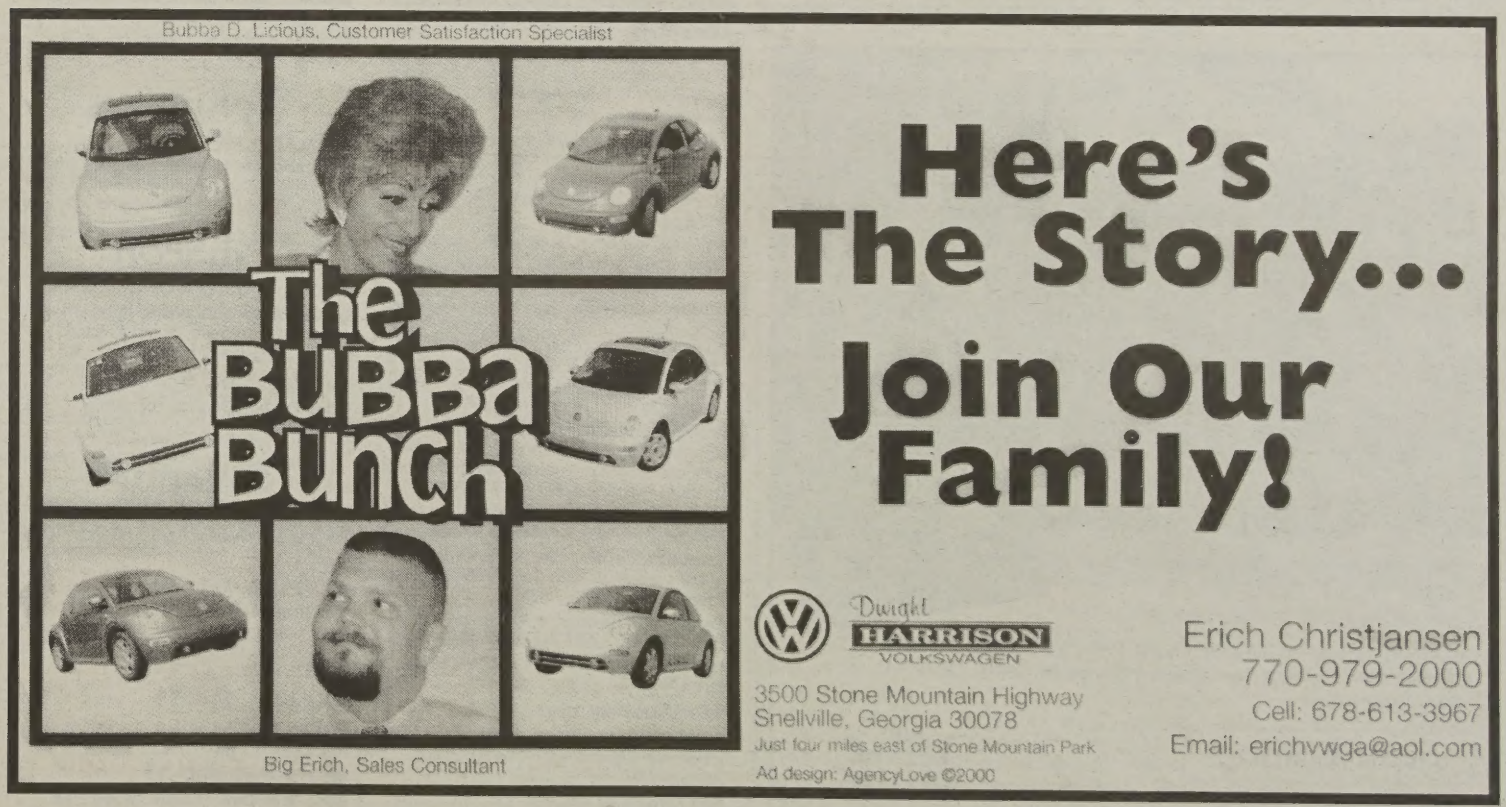
Vigils held for World AIDS Day

Atlantans observed World AIDS Day, Dec. 1, with a handful of events scattered throughout the city, including a memorial service dedicated to re-membering those lost this year, discussing homelessness and hunger, and addressing groups still at high-risk for HIV.

During the memorial, held on the eve of World AIDS Day, Atlanta librarian and storyteller Jane Salier (pictured) performed "A Sky Full of Stars." The short story shows "it's easier to hope with a full stomach," Sailer said.

AIDS Survival Project co-sponsored the event. "There are still so many at-risk groups out there that it's encouraging to see coalitions being built, like the vigil conducted by homeless groups this year," said Jeff Graham, ASP executive director.

— Jennifer J. Smith



atlanta/across ga. calendar

To add a listing, e-mail calendar@sovo.com, call 404-876-1819, ext. 36, or fax to 404-876-2709.

athens

saturday, dec. 8

GLBT Teen Group. 2 pm. Presbyterian Student Center. 706-546-4611 or stock@negia.net.

monday, dec. 10

Lambda Alliance. 7 pm. UGA's GLBT student organization. Room 142 of Tate Student Center. No meetings during breaks or finals weeks. jensheff@arches.uga.edu

atlanta

friday, dec. 7

Atlanta Freedom Marching Band. 7 pm. First Metropolitan Community Church., 1379 Tullie Way. 404-622-0666

Atlanta Rainbow Trout. 7:30 pm.. Ladies Night Swim. Water Polo/Swim Practice. GA-Tech Aquatic Center. 404-286-6131

Hotlanta Volleyball Association. Evenings. Open play for all levels. 770-621-5062

Gay Hockey Atlanta. Evening practices. Play or watch. Duluth IceForum. 678-924-0960. www.gayhockeyatlanta.com.

YouthPride. Drop-in, 4:30-6:30 pm. Movie night, 6:30 pm. 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6175

saturday, dec. 8

Atlanta Feminist Women's Chorus. 8 pm. Holiday concert at St. Mark United Methodist, 781 Peachtree St. 404-524-0304

Atlanta Outright Libertarians. 7 pm. Coffee and conversation. Innovox Lounge, Old Ford Factory on Ponce de Leon. E-mail: Atlanta@Outrightusa.org

Atlanta Team Tennis Association Open Play. 2-6 pm. Social tennis for players at all levels. Piedmont Park. 770-621-2699

BWMT. Dinner & theater night. Eat at YaYa's on W. Ponce de Leon followed by a play at Neighborhood Playhouse. Call 404-892-BWMT

Front Runners. Meet at 8 am in parking lot behind Piedmont Park tennis courts. 770-621-5007

Grant Park Candlelight Tour of Homes. 6 pm. Tour historic homes with festive decorations and candlelight. Grant Park, 404-688-7501

Georgia Field Hockey Association Women's League. 9 am-noon. All skill levels welcome. Nori, 770-985-4903

GLBT Roswell. 5-7:30 pm. Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North. CHenry8015@aol.com

Zacchaeus Society. 4:30 pm. Covered dish. Confidential outreach to GLBT citizens of Rockdale and Newton Counties. For meeting locations, call 404-522-1444, or e-mail zachinfo@mail.com

sunday, dec. 9

Atlanta Freedom Marching Band. 1:30 pm. Participating in Pine Lake's Santa Holiday Parade. Pine Lake, Ga. 404-371-9873

Atlanta Rainbow Trout. 11 am. Water Polo/Swim Practice. GA-Tech Aquatic Center. 404-286-6131

Black Lesbian Discussion Group. 4 pm. For sistas 20-39 years old. YouthPride Center, 302 E. Howard, Decatur. 404-370-0920

BWMT. Steering committee meeting. Call 404-892-BWMT

Family Embrace. 3 pm. A social/spiritual group for black lesbian & bisexual women. The Center. 404-523-7500

Gen-X Bears. International network of younger bears providing friendship and support to ages 18-35, but open to all. 404-635-9344, gagenx@genxbears.org. www.genxbears.org/atlanta

Grant Park Candlelight Tour of Homes. 6 pm. Tour historic homes with festive decorations and candlelight. Grant Park, 404-688-7501

GSV Heart Circle. 7:30 pm. Gay Spirit Visions. Innovox Lounge. Matt 404-248-9649, pretzelulu@aol.com

PFLAG Riverdale/Metro South. 3 pm. Southern Regional Medical Center, Medical Education Wing. 404-370-7316

Potluck Socials for N Ga. Residents. Different location each month. 706-864-3229

Second Sunday. Discussion group for gay, bisexual and transgendered men of African descent. 404-325-7321

monday, dec. 10

International Human Rights Day. 6 pm. Community forum, "From Hatred to Hope." Agnes Scott College. 404-344-9629.

tuesday, dec. 11

Atlanta Lesbian Lifestyles. 7 pm. For women who enjoy the company of other women. My Sisters' Room. 404-929-6654 or www.belladona.org

Atlanta Outworlders. Interest group for gay science fiction fans meets at Miss Q's on Amersterdam Ave. for "Buffy" and "Dark Angel." 770-451-8947. www.outworlders.or

Atlanta Rainbow Trout. 8:30 pm. Swim Practice. GA-Tech Aquatic Center. 404-286-6131

Hotlanta Squares. High energy, no dress code, no pressure, no dance partner and no experience necessary. Meet at First MCC Church of Atlanta, 1379 Tullie Road. Call 404-822-6785 or E-mail: hotlantasquares@mindspring.com

Front Runners Run/Walk. 6:30 pm. Meet at the CVS shopping center at the northwest corner of Commerce Drive and Ponce De Leon Ave, Decatur. 770-621-5007

Hotlanta Volleyball Association. 7-10 pm. Open play for all levels. 770-621-5062

Lambda Literati. 7 pm. Gay & lesbian readers group. Borders Books & Music, 3637 Peachtree Rd. 404-237-0707

YouthPride. Drop-in, 4:30-6:30 pm. Yoga class, 5:30 pm, LGBT People of Color history program, 6:30 pm. 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6175

wednesday, dec. 12

Front Runners 6:30 pm. Meet at parking lot behind Piedmont Park tennis courts. 770-621-5007

Gay Fathers of Atlanta. 7:30 pm. All are welcome. Atlanta-Fulton Library, 980 Ponce de Leon. 404-342-6451

Volunteer Meeting. 4-7 pm. Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund. 1447 Peachtree St, Ste 1004. 404-897-1880

YouthPride. Drop-in, 4:30-6:30 pm. Teen Support Group (ages 13-18), 6-7:30 pm. HIV testing & counseling, 6:30-7:30 pm., Young Adult Discussion Group (ages 18-24), 7:30-9 pm. 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6175

thursday, dec. 13

Atlanta Rainbow Trout. 8:30 pm. Swim Practice. GA-Tech Aquatic Center. 404-286-6131

Atlanta Women's Rugby. Practice 7-9 pm. Matches on Saturdays, no experience necessary. www.atlantaheatwrfc.com

Charis Circle. 7:30 pm. Festival of lights with Gayanne & Avrum Geurin Weiss. Learn stories and songs of Hanukkah. Charis Books, 1189 Euclid Ave. 404-524-0304

Cliterati. Grrls' spoken word open mic. 8 p.m. Tower II, Ralph McGill Blvd. 404-624-3946, ErinWrites@mindspring.com

Dungeons & Dragons. 3E D&D weekly group meeting in downtown Atlanta. Open to all levels of gay and gay-friendly RPG players. Contact ajones@mindspring.com

Lesbian Avengers. 7:30 pm. Weekly meeting of Atlanta chapter, open to all ages & gender identities. YouthPride, 302 E. Howard Ave., Decatur. 404-978-1262 ext. 7744, or lesbianavengers@onebox.com

Life Force +. 7 pm. HIV-positive social group. The Center, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd. 770-454-6611

Men's Group. 7 pm. For gay & bisexual men. The Center, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd., 6th Floor. 404-523-7500.

YouthPride. Drop-in, 4:30-6:30 pm. Boy Talk (ages 13-18), 7-8:30 pm. Womyn's Group (ages 13-24), 7-8:30 pm. 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6175

columbus

monday, dec. 10

Chattahoochee Valley PFLAG. 7:30-9:30 pm. 1442 Double Churches Road. (334)291-5153 7:30-9:30 pm or PFLAGpress@aol.com

macon

friday, dec. 7

CCAN Potluck Luncheons. Noon. Bring a covered dish to share. Diversity House Project, 2020 Ingleside Ave. Free.

sunday, dec. 9

PFLAG. 2 pm. Open to the public. 912-328-0497

savannah

sunday, dec. 9

Friends & Company. 6 pm. AMF Victory Lanes. 912-354-0658

monday, dec. 10

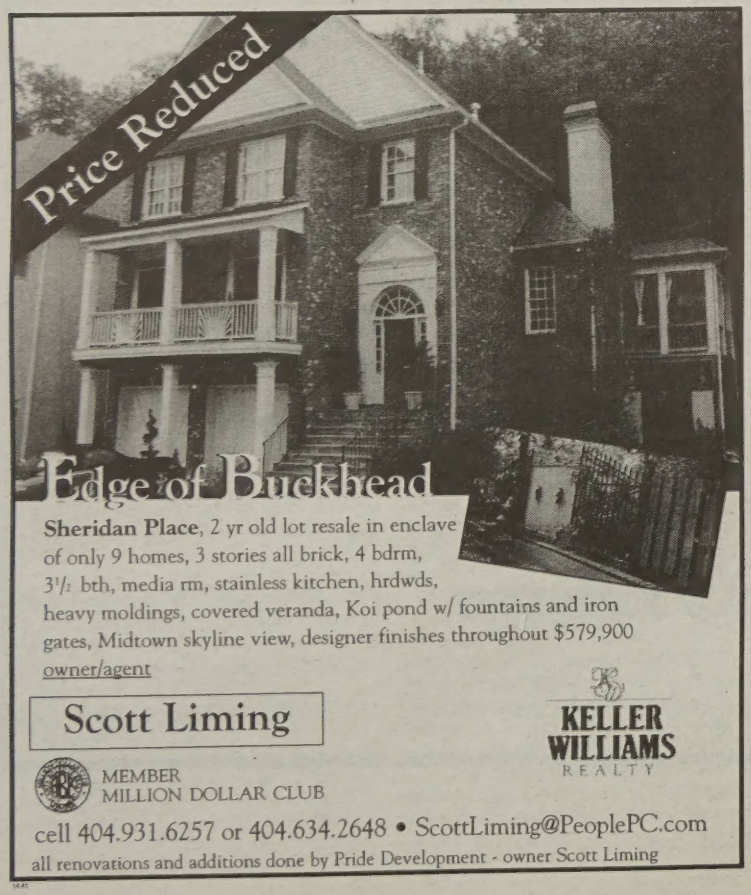
Bowling League. 9 pm. For single lesbians and gay men. AmF Savannah Lanes, 115 Tibet Avenue. $10/week. Trey or Trish, 912-925-0320.

tuesday, dec. 11

FCN Board Meeting. 6 pm. First City Network office, third floor. 912-236-2489

thursday, dec. 13

BOIZ Nite Out. 7:30 pm. Moon River Restaurant & Brewery. Come early for a pool game downstairs in the private room. Kevin Clark, 912-944-0996.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Homeless find help, hope at the Edgewood

Assisted housing facility serves many clients who are gay, HIV-positive

by JENNIFER J. SMITH

HELPING OUT

'Helping Out' is a feature of Southern Voice during the holiday season profiling gay people in need who have been aided by non-profit agencies across Georgia. If you have suggestions for an upcoming story, call 404-876-1819, ext. 29, or e-mail editor@sovo.com. To find out more about the agency or how you can help, contact information is included at the end of the story.

When Bridget Johnson received the results of her HIV test in 1997, she wasn't surprised she had tested positive. The African-American lesbian, 32 at the time, had already seen more than one lifetime's worth of suffering.

Johnson said she was born into a classic American family outside New York City in the late '60s, but her parents' divorce and a move with her mother and siblings to Savannah, Ga., preceded a slow economic decline for the family.

When Johnson graduated high school she decided to track down the father that had been absent during her maturation, moving back to live with him and attend college.

Like most positive things in her life, it didn't last long. New York would be her first introduction to homelessness, but it would not be her last.

Johnson eventually moved back to Savannah, but the increasing role alcohol and crack cocaine played in her life led to high risk sex, occasionally including unsafe sex with bisexual men.

"I was already in a low point in my life. When I found out I had HIV, I just hit bottom," she said. "I turned completely to alcohol and crack. I became homeless again."

Johnson is not sure why the story doesn't end there.

"But a friend convinced me to move to Atlanta where they had a rehab program," she said. "So I took a chance and went."

With the rehabilitation going well, Johnson got her own apartment and was on her way to independence when her illness landed her in the hospital.

"They didn't think I was going to make it. I've been near death a lot," she said quietly. She lost her lease, and while the rehab was a personal victory, she once again found herself homeless, this time in Atlanta.

Johnson bounced from shelter to shelter, but never gave up hope of getting her own apartment again.

"I got a mentor, and she told me about a program called the Edgewood. I had never heard of it, but I went down and checked it out," she said.

After patiently climbing her way up the waiting list, Johnson now sits in a small room with a bed and a phone in her name. It's modest, but it's all hers, and she pays the rent to prove it.

The Edgewood, a six-year-old program providing assisted housing for homeless men and women, serves a large number of people who are gay or lesbian and HIV-positive, according to Elaine Dawson, the facility's director. The location of the home is kept confidential to protect the privacy of residents.

"Some of our residents have been beat down by life. Beat down by illness. Beat down by discrimination because of their sexual orientation. My job is to provide a safe place for them and help them get back on their feet," Dawson said.

Johnson is typical of the men and women the Edgewood helps. Her health has improved significantly with a home and a healthy diet, she's still clean of drugs after a year, and last week the program arranged for her to have her first trip to an optometrist.

Now she wants to be an example to other women. She hopes to become a counselor.

"I made it. I know it can be done. I want to provide hope for other women like me. You never have to give up hope," Johnson said.

But for a program that cites a 90 percent success rate in keeping previous residents off the streets, Dawson said the Edgewood has a hard time making ends meet.

Funded in part by St. Joseph's Mercy Care Services and federal grants, the small staff shares one computer in a building that has little heat, less air, a kitchen with appliances threatening to quit any day, and a never ending need for linens, bedding, food and toiletries.

Dawson also dreams of providing a computer lab for residents of the Edgewood.

"They come here with so little knowledge of what's going on in their bodies," she said. "The difference between a man with no information about what's happening to him and one that has access to medical databases and e-mail to talk to others like him is the difference in someone who has given up and someone ready to fight for themselves."

R.O. YOUNGBLOOD

Bridget Johnson, HIV-positive and lesbian, found support and a way out of homelessness at the Edgewood.

INFO

The Edgewood
Elaine Dawson, director
404-221-0559

OBITUARY

Kenneth B. Branton, 45

Kenneth B. Branton, 45, died Dec. 2 of a heart attack, according to his partner of 16 years, Kenneth Harrison.

Branton, a resident of Atlanta for 20 years, was a credit manager who lost his job in the economic downturn after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. "Because of that and the depression that set in, I think that's why he died of a heart attack," Harrison said.

An animal lover, Branton was an active participant in cat shows and bred cats to show and sell, Harrison said. He was also part of the neighborhood watch program in the Dunaire subdivision and had recently started attending the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit.

"He was a very gentle individual with a very good disposition to other people," Harrison said. "He was always very generous and he always tried to help other people."

In addition to Harrison, Branton is survived by his mother, Erma Leach; three brothers and one sister; friends Michael Hunt, Gregg Moser and Rodney Cross; and his three dogs and three cats.

A memorial service was held for Branton on Dec. 5 in his hometown of Maryville, Tenn.

Although not HIV-positive, Branton supported HIV-related causes, and memorial gifts are requested to AID Atlanta, 1438 W. Peachtree St., suite 100, Atlanta, GA 30309, Harrison said.

—Laura Douglas-Brown

Southern Voice publishes obituaries of lesbians, gay men and other members of the gay community in Atlanta, whether or not the deceased was living in Atlanta at the time of death, as well as the obituaries of those from throughout the country who are well-known to the gay community.

Obituaries can include photographs and will be assigned to a reporter and treated as a news story. The reporter will verify the death and gather other information about the life of the deceased, including as many details as space permits.

Memorials and messages to the deceased may be included in obituaries with attribution, or survivors may purchase a display advertisement to run on or near the same page as the obituary. For more information or to submit an obituary, call 404-876-1819, ext. 19.

Day of Remembrance

R.O. YOUNGBLOOD

The names of transgendered Americans lost to assault or suicide were displayed on the steps of the Georgia capitol Nov. 28 for Atlanta's third annual Day of Remembrance.

About 40 people attended the event, according to Monica Helms, executive director of Trans=Action, a transgender advocacy group. "Even though our turnout was less than some other cities [that observed the Day of Remembrance], we are pleased that our turnout was still good, and it was definitely successful," Helms said.

Day of Remembrance organizers were also "honored" to have state Rep. Karla Drenner (D-Avondale Estates), Georgia's only openly gay state legislator, as a speaker, Helms said. Atlanta City Council member Cathy Woolard, a lesbian who was elected City Council president last week, also sponsored a proclamation recognizing the event.

—Laura Douglas-Brown and Jennifer J. Smith

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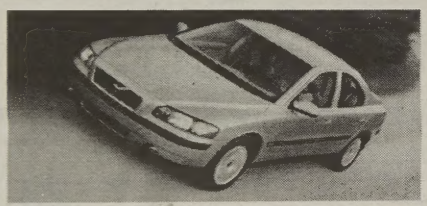

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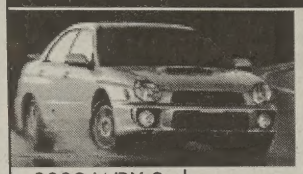

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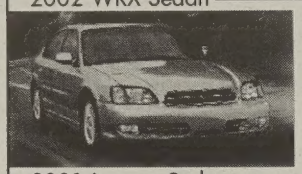

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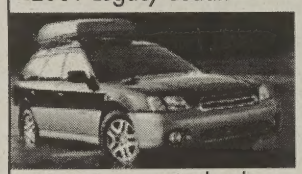

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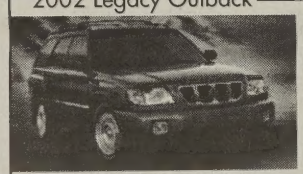

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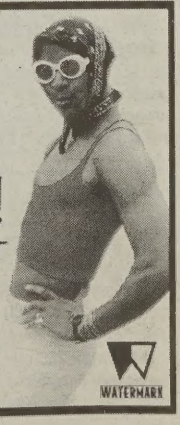

WATERMARK

medical report

One-third of people at risk for HIV don't get tested

ATLANTA (AP) — Nearly 30 percent of people deemed at risk for HIV have never been tested, the government said in warning they could unknowingly spread the virus that causes AIDS. The study by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention involved more than 30,000 people in the U.S. Some 73 percent of those considered at risk for HIV said they had been tested, but only 30 percent said they had been tested in the previous year. The results, which were released last week, underscore a problem that has concerned health officials for years: A substantial segment of people with the virus don't realize they have it and are probably spreading it. The study cited lack of access to testing centers and a perceived lack of confidentiality as reasons some people don't get tested.

Report: Gay teens less suicidal than previously thought

ITHCA, N.Y. — Gay teens are only slightly more likely than their straight counterparts to attempt suicide, contrary to past studies that suggest gay youth have about triple the rate of trying suicide, according to a Cornell University psychologist in a controversial report due this month, USA Today reported. Studies finding that about 30 percent of gay adolescents have attempted suicide exaggerated the rates because they surveyed the most disturbed teens and didn't separate thoughts from action, according to the psychologist, Ritch Savin-Williams. His two studies, to be published in the Journal of Consulting & Clinical Psychology, focus on 349 students aged 17 to 25. Some of the key findings show that over half of reported suicide attempts turned out to be "thinking about it" rather than trying anything. "But most gay kids are healthy and resilient," Savin-Williams said. Poorly designed studies that exaggerate their suicide risk "pathologize gay youth, and that's not fair to them," he said.

Condom shortage slows global fight against AIDS

The World Health Organization said that more condoms need to be produced to stem the spread of AIDS. In Thailand, AIDS educators dressed as condoms marked World AIDS Day on Dec. 1.

GENEVA, Switzerland — Despite the lack of money and access to drugs, the World Health Organization has said the world is now ready to stop the HIV/AIDS epidemic, just as experts warn that a severe shortage of condoms worldwide is fuelling a rapid increase in infection, the British Broadcast Company reported. "The world is now ready to turn back the epidemic," Gro Harlem Brundtland, WHO's head, said in a statement to mark World AIDS Day on Dec. 1. The statement came as the Joint United Nations Program on HIV & AIDS said that in order to reduce HIV transmission rates sufficiently, up to 24 billion condoms should be made a year, which is three times the current estimated number produced. UNAIDS studies across several countries have shown that despite the fact that many governments and social marketing agencies buy condoms in bulk and hand them out for free, young people do not know that HIV infection can be prevented through having protected sex.

Delaying drugs for some HIV patients may be safe

CHICAGO (AP) — Symptom-free HIV patients can safely hold off taking AIDS drugs longer than previously thought, two new studies suggest. When antiretroviral drugs first became available in the mid-1990s, their dramatic effects prompted many doctors to recommend immediate treatment for all HIV patients to keep the virus in check. But the drugs are costly, must be switched often to remain effective and can cause serious side effects, so doctors have sought to delay treatment whenever possible. The new studies, which were published in the most recent issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association, found that for many patients, delaying treatment does no harm. In one study, Andrew Phillips, a researcher at the Royal Free & University Medical College Medical School in London, and colleagues analyzed data from 3,226 patients treated in European HIV clinics from 1996 to 2000. The second study, led by researchers Robert Hogg and Dr. Julio Montaner at the University of British Columbia, involved 1,219 HIV patients who started triple-drug treatment between 1996 and 1999.

Gay musician Elton John co-sponsoring AIDS ads

LOS ANGELES — Cable TV networks MTV and VH1 and the Elton John AIDS Foundation began a new public service announcement campaign on Dec. 1 with 30-second ads calling attention to continuing HIV infection rates that continue to climb in the U.S. and emphasizing the need to practice safer sex, the San Francisco Chronicle reported. "[The ad campaign is important] because it's being unveiled by Elton John and his foundation," Tom Coates, director of the University of California at San Francisco AIDS Research Institute, told the Chronicle. "It's important that celebrity leaders maintain their commitment to fighting against HIV/AIDS. Number two, because it focuses on gay men, a group in which we're seeing a rise in new infections and who also represent a substantial part of existing infections." The ads were unveiled in Los Angeles.

— From staff and wire reports

For more news, visit www.sovo.com

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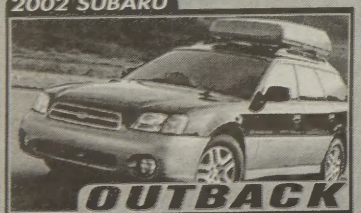
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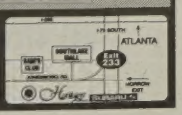

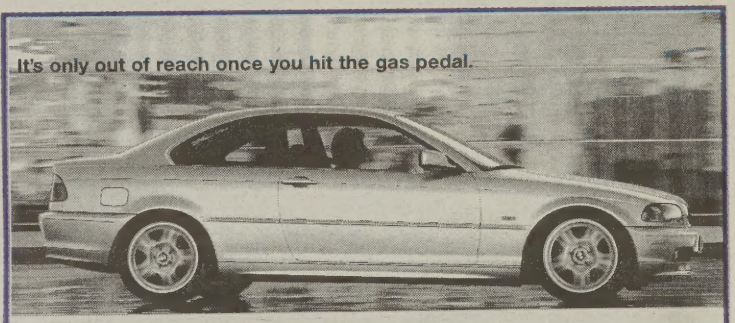

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L.A.'s Episcopal Diocese installs gay-friendly bishop

LOS ANGELES — Rt. Rev. J. Jon Bruno, who was installed Dec. 1 as bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles, said his focus on social and economic activism would include paying attention to gay rights, the Los Angeles Times reported. The 55-year-old bishop said he also plans to create a diverse church membership and wants to help curb domestic and street violence. "I want to create the best community you can ever imagine," said Bruno, a onetime Roman Catholic and police officer who once played professional football for the Denver Broncos. Bruno replaced Rt. Rev. Frederick H. Borsch, a longtime friend, noted scholar and civic activist. Borsch, 66, is scheduled to leave office Jan. 31, after serving as bishop for 14 years. The Episcopal Church has 2.4 million members. The Los Angeles Diocese has 85,000 members and covers Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Santa Barbara, and part of Riverside counties.

Rt. Rev. Frederick H. Borsch (right) passes crosier to his successor, Rt. Rev. J. Jon Bruno, who said his social activism would includes gays.

Case against gay church elder dropped by Presbyterians

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The Permanent Judicial Commission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) on Dec. 4 dismissed a case about whether an openly gay church member in Connecticut could be installed as an elder. The Presbyterian News Service reported the commission dismissed the case after learning at an appeals hearing Nov. 30 that the First Presbyterian Church of Stamford, Conn., installed a new class of elders last June. The question about whether Wayne Osborne is eligible to be installed is moot, they said, because he is not a member of the latest class of elders. The case against Osborne began in June 1998 after the congregation elected him to a second term and some members opposed this. Osborne said he is gay after being ordained as a church elder in 1994. Mairi Hair and James McCallum filed the latest appeal after a lower court approved Osborne's installation. The denomination has a policy that in part requires elders, deacons and minister to be celibate if they are single.

Chicago cardinal meets with leaders of gay Catholic group

CHICAGO — Two leaders of the Rainbow Sash Movement recently met privately with Cardinal Francis George to discuss gay-related issues that range from Holy Communion to hate crimes. Rainbow Sash is a group for gay Roman Catholics and their supporters. Joe Murray, the group's U.S. convener, and Gene Janowski, its Chicago convener, described the meeting Nov. 20 with the cardinal as productive. George declined comment ."The cardinal considers that meeting a private one with two individuals, and he isn't interested in speaking about it specifically or even generally," said Mary McDonough, a spokesperson for the Archdiocese of Chicago. Murray and Janowski said George spoke during their meeting "with candor and frankness." He said Catholic leaders refuse to offer Rainbow Sash members Communion because the groups members are "politicizing the Eucharist" by wearing a colorful fabric strip over their left shoulders during the ceremony. The sash is a way to acknowledge they are gay or support gay people, Murray and Janowski said. They also said the cardinal mentioned that he might be willing to issue a pastoral letter addressing violence against gays. George also discussed how to more fully include gays in church life, the men said.

Pope offers positive message on World AIDS Day

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope John Paul II told people with HIV and AIDS on Dec. 1 that he is with them. He also encouraged medical researchers to continue efforts to find a cure for the epidemic. The 81-year-old pontiff marked World AIDS Day by reaching out to people with HIV and AIDS, saying, "Dear brothers and sisters sick with AIDS, don't feel alone. The pope is near you with love and supports you in your difficult path." The pope met with health care volunteers at the Vatican and offered encouragement to scientists "who tirelessly spare no effort to heal and defeat this grave form of illness." John Paul's opposition to homosexuality and the use of condoms as a way to prevent the spread of HIV has drawn criticism from many people. He did not refer to those issues during the Dec. 1 address.

UFMCC pastor appointed to Latin American council

WEST HOLLYWOOD, Calif. — The gay Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches' ecumenical officer for Central America recently was appointed executive secretary of the national (Nicaraguan) committee of the Latin American Council of Churches. Rev. Dr. Armando Sanchez also is senior pastor of Iglesia de la Comunidad Metropolitana Paz y Alegrma in Managua, Nicaragua. "Programmatic priority will be given to sensitive topics in the life of the church, including gender violence and human rights, sexuality and Christian spirituality, social action, and Christian social justice in a global world," Sanchez said. The council is made up of about 70 member denominations, including Pentecostal and evangelical denominations. The national committee to which Sanchez was appointed is responsible for coordinating communication among member churches and denominations and helping with strategic planning.

— From staff and wire reports

religion report

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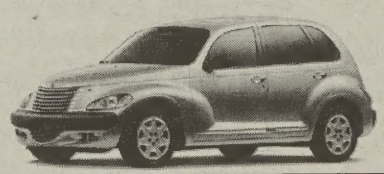

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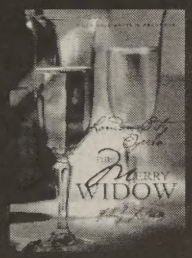

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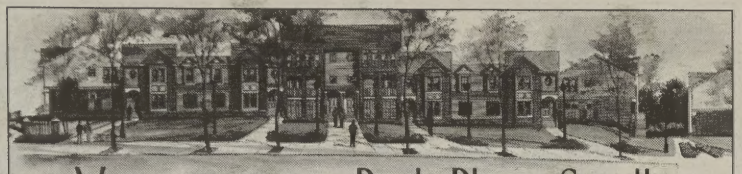

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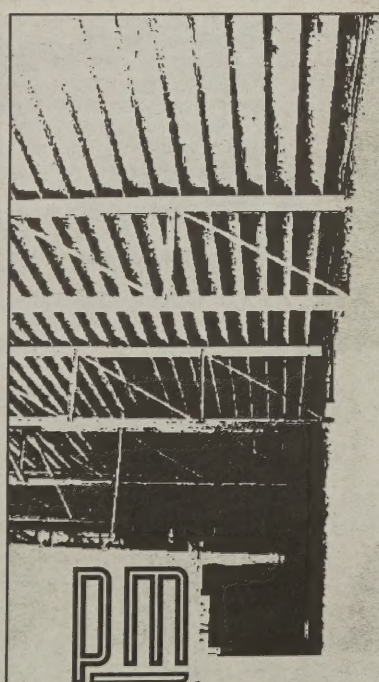

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Where have all the DRAG QUEENS gone?

Local female impersonators from past and present discuss why drag is on the decline in the ATL

by ERIC ERICKSON

The music isn't louder. The costumes aren't necessarily more glitzy. But their hair is just as big and the eyelashes just as fake.

Comparing Atlanta's drag scene of today to its heyday in the 1970s and early 1980s, local legend Billy Jones points to one sure sign female impersonation is losing popularity: The stages are much smaller.

Sitting in his office amongst pictures of Shirley Temple and Phyllis Killer, his drag persona, Jones recalls the early days of drag in Georgia's capital city.

"We got four concrete blocks and an old garage door from a building next door and made us a stage," Jones says.

While the equipment was primitive, their attitude was progressive. Jones was one of a handful of performers who helped shape an Atlanta institution that would later produce a handful of national gay celebrities.

It was 1968 when Jones and another performer, Diamond Lil, drug drag out of the underground and into the foreground, not the easy task they had hoped it would be.

"It was against the law for men to dress up in drag," Jones says. "We had to hide from police because [the bar] was over there on Ponce de Leon. When the police came, we had to run into the beer cooler and the furnace room, anywhere so they wouldn't catch us."

Diamond Lil says they kept a low profile to prevent prejudice from permeating their performances.

"We dodged stones, beer bottles [and] cans, but we came on and kept the show going," Jones says.

Their perseverance paid off. Lil says shows on Tuesday nights drew crowds that compared to Saturday night gatherings. Eventually, bars like Sweet Gum Head and Club Centaur opened, catering specifically to fans of female impersonation.

The new drag bars were a smashing success, easing an appetite that had been growing for years. Gay audiences were hungry for gay entertainment.

➢ Continued on Page 20

Drag flourishes at Model T's in Midtown where Jewel Holiday hosts the festivities.

Diamond Lil and Billy Jones pioneered Atlanta drag.

appts.

saturday, dec. 8

Grant Park, one of Atlanta's most historic neighborhoods, will hold its annual **Candlelight Tour of Homes** Saturday and Sunday. Victorian and Craftsman style homes will be dressed with festive decorations and candlelight as walks lined in luminaries lead to each home on the tour. Tickets are $10 in advance or $12 the day of the event and are available at the Urban, Sacred Grounds and Kelly's Grocery on Broils St. 404-688-7501.

Join the Atlanta Feminist Women's Chorus for a holiday gift of music with its **"Heart and Hearth"** concert at St. Mark United Methodist Church. Advance tickets are $17, $16 or $13 and are available at Charis Books and Outwrite. St. Bartholomew Church, 781 Peachtree St. 404-524-0304.

sunday, dec. 9

The Atlanta Freedom Marching Band, celebrating its eighth anniversary, will march in Pine Lake's Santa **Holiday Parade**. The parade kicks off at 1:30 p.m. from the Pine Lake Community Boat House at Club & Lake Shore drives.

monday, dec. 10

Dr. C. T. Vivian and Loretta Ross will speak during a community forum, **"From Hatred to Hope,"** honoring International Human Rights Day at Agnes Scott College in Decatur. The program will focus on a multitude of oppressions, including GLBT issues. Begins at 6 p.m. at Agnes Scott College, Decatur. 404-344-9629.

thursday, dec. 13

There's more to the eight days of Hanukkah than candles and dreidels. Share the joy and history of Hanukkah with stories and songs. **Festival of Lights** begins 7:30 p.m. at Charis Books & More, 1189 Euclid Ave. 404-524-0304.

If you could use some extra spending money for the holidays, all while helping out a needy pet, then head **"Over the Hills and Through the Woods"** to P.A.L.S. Bingo, with your sparkling holiday host Bubba D. Licious. The festivities begin 7:30 p.m. at the Ramada Inn at 418 Armour Drive. 404-876-7257.

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on stage

THEATER REVIEWS

by JIM FARMER

Charles Dickens, Southern style

Bubbaneezer Scrooge learns to love Christmas in revised version

Charles Dicken's "A Christmas Carol" has always seemed to be a ripe target for a take-off, yet production after production holds the work in sheer reverence.

Wouldn't it be great to see the holiday favorite take a good-natured ribbing? Stone Mountain's ART Station tries to do so in its production of **A CHRISTMAS CAROL — SOUTHERN STYLE.**

Despite its Southern spin, this version closely follows the Dickens version. The action takes place in the 1890s, on Christmas Eve, where crotchety ol' Bubbaneezer Scrooge (Hudson Adams) runs a bank.

Scrooge's partner Marley died seven years ago to the date. Bubbaneezer's current employee Bobby Jack Cratchet (Andrew Davis) wants Christmas day off to be with his family, but frugal Bubbaneezer complains. Scrooge also wants to charge him for lumps of coal to warm up the office.

After dinner alone, Scrooge goes home that evening and is visited by the ghost of Marley. He is told that he will receive three specters that evening.

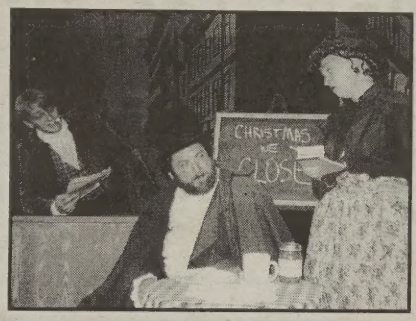
The spooks come in different shapes and along the way Scrooge sees his past, his present and his future.

"A Christmas Carol — Southern Style" has fun with some of its situations. Bubbanezeer has a deer's head mounted in his house, and instead of the obligatory "Bah, Humbug," Scrooge constantly utters "Bunk."

One of the ghosts is in drag, with high heels and higher hair, and another of the spirits offers Bubba fried chicken every few minutes.

What's a little disappointing, though, is that "A Christmas Carol — Southern Style" doesn't take enough advantage of its situation. The idea of a Southern spoof of the time-honored story seems exciting and long overdue.

Yet with the exception of names being changed, and the location shifting to Atlanta (with all sorts of Peachtree remarks) little about Dickens' tale has changed. Though gags do surface, playwrights David Thomas and Nancy Knight could have done more.



An old favorite with a new spin: Art Station's production of 'A Christmas Carol — Southern Style' puts an Atlanta face on a classic.

This eventually turns into a traditional version of "A Christmas Carol," with a syrupy good feel and a Tiny Tim bound to make audiences go "ah."

Surprisingly, the ghostly visits (and the flashbacks) are rather lifeless, except for Burnley's performance. The talented Burnley has fun with the three spirits.

Adams, too, seems to enjoy himself in the title role, sneering his nose at the ever-present holiday cheer and sentiment of others. Others in the cast don't have as much to do.

Perky Karen Beyer, from the "Veranda" series, and Bryan Mercer (as the narrator and a few others) don't have much to bite into.

ART Station's "A Christmas Carol — Southern Style" certainly passes by easily enough and is a bold attempt on placing a new spin on a classic. Sadly, the funniest thing about it is ultimately its premise.

Atlanta just can't get enough vagina.

Eve Ensler's off-Broadway hit **"The Vagina Monologues"** is returning to the Coca-Cola Roxy Theatre next week. Though the Atlanta cast is still to be determined, "Monologues" features a trio of women spinning tales such as "The Little Coochi Snorcher That Could" and "If your vagina could talk, what would it say?"

Finally, those Abby Award-winning Synchronicity gals are presenting **"Celebration in Song: A Holiday Cabaret."** Featuring such performers as Janet Metzger, Kristin-Yoke Markiton and Hope Mirlis, this is an evening of story-telling and song.

INFO

'A Christmas Carol — Southern Style'
ART Station
Through Dec. 21
770-469-1105

'The Vagina Monologues'
Coca-Cola Roxy Theatre
Dec. 10-15
404-249-6400

'Celebration in Song: A Holiday Cabaret'
Alliance Hertz Stage
Dec. 10
404-284-1151

atlanta theater calendar

KATHRYN KOLB

Horizon Theater reprises the outrageous holiday comedy 'The Santaland Diaries.' Penned by gay author David Sedaris about his stint as a Macy's department store elf, the show runs until Dec. 25.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL, SOUTHERN STYLE Thru Dec. 21. Adaptation from the original Charles Dickens' novel. ART Station, 5384 Manor Drive, Stone Mtn. 770-469-1105.

ALADDIN Thru Dec. 16. Adapted from the story of "1,001 Arabian Nights," puppets provide a new twist to the classic. Center for Puppetry Arts, 1404 Spring St. 404-873-3391.

A-SLEUTHING WE WILL GO Thru Jan. 16. Agatha's-A Taste of Mystery presents a holiday theme mystery. Agatha's, corner of Peachtree & Third St. 404-875-4321.

COMPANY Thru Dec. 22. A Stephen Sondheim musical set in 1970's NYC that follows the relationships of five couples. King Plow Arts Center, 887 W. Marietta St. 404-607-7469.

THE MAN WHO CAME TO DINNER Thru Dec. 23. A 1930's comedy about an obnoxious house guest. Stage Door Players, 5339 Chamblee Dunwoody Road, Dunwoody. 770-396-1726.

THE 1940'S RADIO HOUR Thru Jan. 6. One of the all-time favorite holiday musicals, the production is a behind-the-scenes look at the making of a radio broadcast for soldiers overseas at Christmas. Theater in the Square, 11 Whitlock Ave., Marietta. 770-422-8369.

THE SHOEMAKER & THE ELVES Thru Jan. 6. Based on the original tale by the Brothers Grimm. Center for the Puppetry Arts, 1404 Spring. St. 404-873-3391.

PEACHTREE BATTLE Thru Jan. 27. This comedy/drama centers on a blueblood Buckhead family wedding and introduces an unforgettable mother, Trudy Habersham, as her favorite son prepares to marry a Hooters girl. Peachtree Playhouse, 878 Peachtree St. 404-875-1193.

SANDERS FAMILY CHRISTMAS Thru Dec. 30. Back for the holidays, this play tells the story of a gospel-singing family from the Depression to Christmas at the beginning of World War II. A sequel to "Smoke on the Mountain." Theater in the Square, 11 Whitlock Ave., Marietta. 770-422-8369.

—Compiled by Andrew Keegan

To add a listing, e-mail akeegan@sovo.com or fax to 404-876-2709.

out on the town

SCENES FROM ATLANTA NIGHTLIFE

by ROB NIXON

Ooh, what a little moonlight will do

Two local grrrl groups come together to produce an eventful evening with performance by Thea Hillman

Jazz legend (and sometime girl-lover) Billie Holliday always extolled the virtues of moonlight when it came to romance.

Now two women's arts companies are planning to perform a little lunar magic in Atlanta at the **TWILIGHT MOONBEAM BALL** on Dec. 8.

The event brings self-proclaimed estrogenic groups Cliterati and EstroFest Productions together for a night of wild fun and, they hope, the first of many annual winter fund-raisers.

"We didn't want to do a standard fund-raiser," says Estrofest Artistic Associate Ruth Anna Millman. "We wanted to get as wacky as possible."

Millman herself expects to be walking in moon shoes, eating moon pies and maybe doing a trick or to with a monkey.

Performance artist Thea Hillman takes to the stage at the Twilight Moonbeam Ball on Dec. 8.

The performance party extravaganza kicks off at 7 p.m. at Art Farm with the Cosmic Carnival, featuring a fortune teller, a kissing booth for all genders and persuasions and a Sunshine Adoration Booth (pay $1 for a sweet compliment). There will also be a silent auction and a talent contest.

At 9 p.m., the Transmission from Another World Spoken Word Show kicks off with local artists and guest Thea Hillman of San Francisco. Hillman, last seen in Atlanta in a summer appearance at the Red Light Café, will be reading from her newest book, "Depending on the Light" (Manic D Press), a collection of short, gritty pieces about girls (or, as the event producers prefer it: *grrrls*) and life in the city.

A nationally known writer and performer, Hillman has been part of the poetry slam scene for several years and performed with the SisterSpit Rambling Road Show and the Hell on Heels National Poetry Tour.

She's also the proud holder of the tag-team haiku championship title, so expect something raw and lively.

"I write about queer sex and city life with a political edge and a social conscious," she says. "I say the uncomfortable, what people are afraid to say, but what they're really thinking."

The Moon Dance follows from 10:30 p.m. to midnight, where a DJ will spin tunes with the word "moon" in the lyrics.

The proceeds from the night will help each of the groups move forward with their work. EstroFest, producers of last February's "Seen + Heard" women's arts festival, is planning a new performance for 2001, "The Weather = The World," a dance/theater project based on the performers' personal experiences with "chaos theory and how weather impacts mood," Millman says.

As with "Seen + Heard," the show will benefit a local nonprofit group (to be named) that provides services, resources and support to women.

"Our main shows always benefit a women's nonprofit, but this event is meant to raise money for us so we can do more of those community fund-raisers," Millman says.

The money will also help "all-grrrl" spoken-word group Cliterati continue to present its twice-monthly open mic nights at Tower II and to bring spoken-word and performance artists, such as Hillman, from other cities.

Tickets for the Twilight Moonbeam Ball are $10 in advance (at Charis Books & More in Little Five Points), $12 at the door. The event is open to the general public, but the producers say the spoken word show is limited to those 18 and older.

INFO

Cliterati & EstroFest's 'Twilight Moonbeam Ball'

Dec. 8, 7 p.m.
Art Farm
835 Wylie Ave.
404-797-0489
estrofest.org
cliterationline.com

calendar

drag/comedy/ cabaret

BACKSTREET ATLANTA Thur & Sun 1 a.m.; Fri & Sat 11:30 p.m.: Charlie Brown's X-Rated Cabaret. Sun 9 p.m.: The Armorettes. Backstreet Atlanta, 845 Peachtree. 404-873-1986.

BLAKES Wed 11 p.m. Lust & Bust show with hostess Lena "Hot Damn" Lust, featuring Shawna Brooks, Ashley Kruiz and Martina Diamante. 227 Tenth St. 404-892-5786.

BRIDGETOWN GRILL Mon 8 p.m. "Monday Night Mania" with Satin Dolls, a revue starring hostess and emcee Tina Devore with Ashley Kruiz, Alicia Kelly, Lauren LaMasters and Maxine Blue. Full dinner menu available. 691 Peachtree St. 404-873-5361.

BURKHART'S Sun 7:30 & 10:30 p.m.: the Gospel Girls. Mon-Thur: Karaoke. 1492-F Piedmont. 404-872-4403.

COMEDY RESPONSE UNIT Fri & Sat 10:30 p.m. Improv unit interacts with the audience to create comedy. Red Chair Theater, 662 11th St. 404-872-4242.

LE BUZZ Tues & Thur 10 p.m. Karaoke hosted by Jonathan. 585 Franklin Rd., Marietta. 770-424-1337.

METRO Tues: Latin Night. Wed: Regina Sims presents Silhouettes of Illusion. Sat: Scott Davis. 1080 Peachtree. 404-874-9869.

NICKIEMOTO'S Mon 8:30 p.m. "Drag-Amaki" show accompanies dinner. 990 Piedmont Ave. 404-253-2010.

SAMBUCA JAZZ CAFÉ Live jazz nightly; tapas benefit with $10 cover Thursdays. 3102 Piedmont Rd. 404-237-5299.

TRAXX Mon 10:30 p.m. & 12:30 a.m. With hostess Sophia McIntosh. The Warehouse, 306 Luckie St. 404-681-4422.

galleries/exhibits

ART AIDS AFRICA Dec. 7 & 15. Imported African art and artifacts for sale to benefit HIV/AIDS programs in Africa. Wyatt Stubbs M.D. Auditorium, 2665 North Decatur Rd., Professional building of DeKalb Medical Center. 404-508-9546.

BARBARA ARCHER GALLERY Thru Jan. 19. "Snowman People," works by Scott and Clint Griffin. 1123 Zonolite Rd. 404-815-1545.

GALLERY SKLO Thru Jan. 4. "Shadows & Light," black & white photography of Runn Turner. 75 Bennett St. 404-350-9763.

OUTWRITE Thru Jan. 31. Richard Melvin's collection of "Stars, Stripes & Romantic Abstractionist Paintings." Symbolic allusions in a geometric format with a romantic, metaphorical perspective. 10th & Piedmont. 404-607-0082.

LOWE GALLERY Thru Dec. 28. Works of James Harvard. 75 Bennett St. 404-352-8114.

Ernest C. Withers 'Pictures Tell the Story' is the first retrospective exhibition of Withers' work and will be on display at the High Museum of Art until Jan. 26. Withers documented the civil rights movement from the 1950s through the 1960s and produced a book on the Emmett Till murder that became a motivating influence for the push towards equal rights. 1280 Peachtree St. 404-733-4400.

—Compiled by Andrew Keegan

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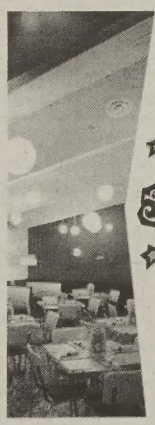
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Is drag falling out of favor?

➢ Continued from Page 17

Drag flourished in Atlanta. Jones recalls as many as 14 bars at one time in Atlanta offering drag shows on a regular basis.

"Atlanta was at one time the drag capital of the United States," says Clayton Hamilton, who was involved in the drag scene as a stylist and performer throughout the 1980s and '90s, under the name Mia Landon.

"Some of the country's finest entertainers have either come out of Atlanta or either moved to Atlanta and established themselves," Hamilton says.

Need proof? Lady Bunny, Lady Chablis, Cezanne and Charlie Brown are all nationally known drag icons with roots in Atlanta. For further proof, there's the best-known queen in the U.S, RuPaul, who also started in Atlanta.

But the city that was once the drag capital of the U.S. no longer has a full time drag bar. You can catch queens at Blake's, the Metro, Trax, Model T's and Rico's View, but only one night a week or during a featured competition.

"At one point I thought that might mean that there was an end to drag coming soon," says Raven, one of the headlining performers at Backstreet, which hosts the city's largest drag cabaret.

Raven says that drag continues to be popular in other areas of the country beyond Atlanta.

Jones points to changes among gays and of men who wanted to be as glamorous as the queens on stage.

"[Gay men] were more interested in promoting themselves as personality," Jones says. "As a body and as a sex symbol."

Sounds a little like a modern day circuit party.

"The circuit movement kind of took over," Raven says. "I don't think circuit parties destroyed drag, it just gave the audience that came to see drag something else to do here in Atlanta."

It also gave them a new kind of queen.

Circuit parties promote performers reminiscent more of Grace Jones than Princess Grace. Entertainers like Power have made a name for themselves by throwing away the tiara, performing with nothing on their head, not even hair.

Joseph Johnson, a relatively new Atlanta performer who goes by the stage name Jordan Kennedy, says something else not often associated with drag any more is variety.

"I would find myself going to bar after bar after bar and show after show and seeing the same people wearing the same thing doing the same song the same way," Johnson says. "They might be great at it, but there was not this creative evolution and there was no distinguishing your persona."

While drag may be in a lull among gays in Atlanta, a large part of the audiences at bars like Backstreet are straight.

"Gay people have [already] seen everything and they've done everything. Straight people are still just blown away by the fact that these are actual biological males that are doing this to their brain on stage," Raven says.

atlanta eats out

by JONATHAN LERNER

No getting rid of Wisteria

A new Va-Hi eatery offers unique fusion of edible culture

"You may want to double check this," my pal Carter said as we were finishing up a splendid supper at **WISTERIA.** "I believe a wisteria vine takes years before it blooms.

"But I'd say this place has got a jump."

Wisteria occupies the Highland Avenue space that was Babette's before that establishment moved up the street.

It's been redone in soothingly minimal loft-modern style: muted lighting; a warm golden glaze on one art-free wall, and bare brick on the other; exposed rafters overall and a copper dropped ceiling above the inviting mid-room wine bar.

The music was upbeat but unobtrusive. The service was crisp and perfectly competent, but just as friendly and down-to-earth as you'd expect from an address south of Ponce.

Can you spell "urbane sophistication?"

No? Then this should help: The wine card lists all sorts of variations you've probably never tasted — Corvina, Petite Sirah, Barbera, Verdejo, Roussanne — and offers 20 interesting bottles at under $25.

That must be the work of Craig Shook, one of Wisteria's principals. He used to be the "wine guy" at Justin Ward's short-lived Cosi. Before that he worked with Ward at Harvest, and before that they both worked at the legendary Chef's Café.

You'll recognize that lineage in Wisteria's beautiful plates of delicious food: the reverence for vegetables, the Mediterranean sensibility with its slight Asian twist. Here, there's something new in the mix, the influence of the Southern home kitchen.

But the only thing we weren't thrilled with was a regional classic, fried green tomatoes. Set on a handful of buttermilk-dressed greens, they were thinly sliced and given a fine cornmeal coating.

The topping was that trendy Point Reyes, Calif., blue cheese featured in the New York Times just the other day.

> A boned half chicken is marinated — in buttermilk, for a good long time, I presume — and then fried slowly in an iron skillet. The result is a chicken revelation.

But they were undercooked, crisp and sour and just short of unpleasant. Our other starter was stellar: grilled shrimp and scallops in an earthy charred pepper pesto, garnished with basil-flavored house-made potato chips.

My entrée was grilled duck breast. The slices were interleaved with tarragon-scented wild rice pancakes.

The plate was strewn with a pretty dice of apple and tiny orange sections, all in a plumy, ginger-scented sauce. It was tops.

Even better was Carter's fried chicken. Carter comes from Midville, Ga., (population about 620). He knows fried chicken like he knew the plants in his mama's garden.

He declared it every bit as good as the chicken they serve on Tuesdays at Watershed, currently acclaimed as the city's benchmark.

"But you can get it here every day," he noted with lust in his heart.

If your idea of fried chicken came to you from the Colonel, you're in for a shock. Here the point is not a thick, crunchy (oil-soaked) crust, but tender sweet meat.

A boned half chicken is marinated — in buttermilk, for a good long time, I presume — and then fried slowly in an iron skillet. The result is a chicken revelation.

It's served with bacon-braised collards and grilled wedges of sweet corn pudding, with a light mushroom broth.

Dessert finished us off nicely: a dense and intense dark chocolate torte; and crème brulée, actually a duo, one chocolate and one vanilla, both light as sighs.

"One more thing about a wisteria vine," Carter recalled from his childhood in Midville. "Once it's got a hold, there's no getting rid of it."

food file

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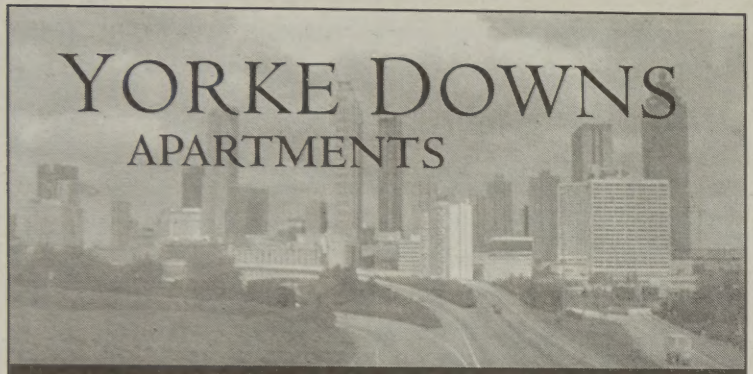

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ON THE FRINGE: INTERIOR DESIGN

by DAMON FOWLER

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas

Even with a limited budget, plenty of decorating options are available

Christmas is the wedding of seasonal holidays: Both are the only times left when people will deliberately dress (or in most cases, overdress) for the occasion, and both seem to be the only times that people are willing to go all out to dress the house as well.

In the old days of heterosexual marriage, that formal wedding dress, with its big train and yards of seed-pearled lace, got a lot more wear than it does today: The bride wore it for every formal occasion during her first year of marriage. Naturally, the groom wore the same formal clothes he wore pretty much every evening and without giving it much thought.

Nowadays, there are no more formal occasions: The dress is worn for about four hours (some brides even peel out of it before the reception) and it never sees daylight again.

And just try to get the average man to put on a black bowtie for anything other than his wedding will make him whine like a four-year-old at the dentist's office.

Beyond the clothes that one can only wear once, there are elaborate decorations that have to come down the minute the party is over, about five minutes of forced formality and a cake that everyone expects but no one will admit to liking.

Moreover, both occasions endure in spite of the fact that many of their trappings have largely lost their core meanings.

To a large degree, perhaps it is because big weddings and Christmas answer something deep in our subconscious, the secret need to go to a lot of trouble to celebrate something full-blast.

It's easy to explain away as fantasy: After all, each also has an element of the fantastic about it. An otherwise rational businesswoman is ready to believe that lace, satin, and four perfectly matched bridesmaids will transform her into a romance novel heroine.

Likewise, people are ready to believe that holly and ivy and cozy red plaid, paired with the right soundtrack, will create a perfect Hallmark moment.

But it runs deeper than that. A friend who had moved to the big city right after World War II thought she had left the sentimentality of Christmas behind. She hadn't any money, and anyway, it was out of keeping with her hard-nosed career-woman attitude.

She resisted magnificently, but then on Christmas Eve, homesick and depressed, she cracked. Late that afternoon, she ran out and scoured the neighborhood until she had found a tiny potted fir. It was less than two feet tall, but it fit both her budget and her coffee table.

Lacking any other ornaments or the money to buy them, she decorated it with her costume jewelry, singing "Silent Night" the whole way.

Most of us who grew up with Christmas know what she was feeling.

The point: One doesn't have to spend a fortune on meticulously coordinated decorations and clothes to create a meaningful Christmas atmosphere anymore than a meaningful wedding needs four friends who all look good in the same dress. All either occasion needs is imagination and a

Pine cones come in a range of sizes perfect for seasonal decorating and cost no more than the trouble of picking them up.

➢ Continued on Page 24

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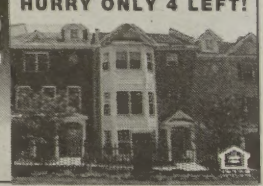

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Decorations bring sense of warmth, familiarity

➢ Continued from Page 23

heart that is in the right place.

Wandering the aisles of Wal-Mart's holiday decorations last week brought this home. There are things one wouldn't hang on a trailer, but plenty that Martha Stewart would no doubt give her full approval.

For less than $2, a frugal shopper can get more than a dozen colored glass ornaments, the old-fashioned kind that look as wonderful piled into your grandmother's cut glass bowl as they do tucked onto any Christmas tree.

Spools of plain red velvet ribbon were less than $4. Gilt-edged or plaid ribbon are a little more. Add a can of gold paint and, if there's an obliging magnolia, holly, or pine available, you'll have elegant gilded door and mantel decorations for next to nothing.

If the holly needs berries, wire a few clusters of lacquered artificial ones in place.

All over the South, pine trees are commonplace. The cones, in a range of sizes so perfect for seasonal decorating, cost no more than the trouble of picking them up. Pile them into baskets, wire them to wreathes, scatter them among the mantel or table decorations, or paint them gold and silver and hang them on the tree.

Food is also welcome and economical. Bowls of nuts, toasted and spiced, or simply left in the shell; oranges, red and green apples, and pineapples are all ready-made

The more familiar the decoration, the more people seem to love them. Not only is a little bit of tacky tolerable, it's welcome.

decorations that are as practical as they are deeply traditional. Not only do they decorate and perfume the house during the season, they can be deliciously recycled in a New Year's Day fruit salad or dessert tart.

If you have ornaments from your childhood that are lurking in back of the closet, take them out and use them in new ways: Wire them to the front door wreath, pile them in a bowl, scatter them on the mantel, or hang them on clear fishing line in the windows.

The truly comforting thing about Christmas is that the more familiar the decorations, the more people seem to love them. And not only is a little bit of tacky tolerable, it's welcome. So put your heart in childhood mode and have fun.

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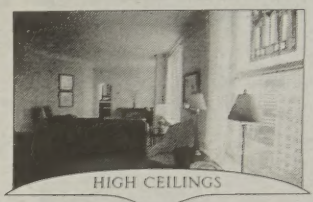
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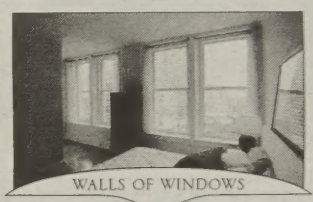
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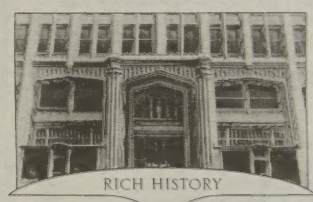
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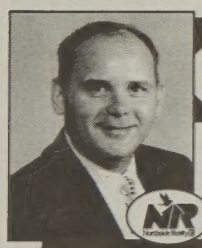

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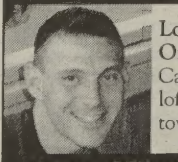

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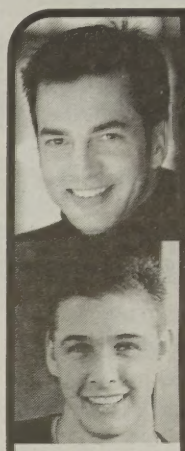

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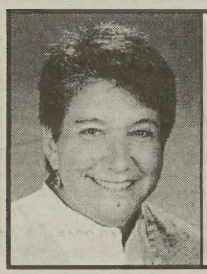

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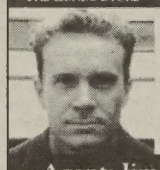

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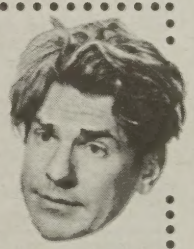

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birthdays

Happy birthday to former Southern Voice employees Ron Sarquist on Dec. 9 and Thad Armour on Dec. 13.

Happy birthday to Black & White Men Together Atlanta members Marion J. on Dec. 7, Jim S. on Dec. 8 and Fred A. on Dec. 13.

The Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus wishes a very happy birthday to its members Harlan Hunt (Tenor II) on Dec. 11 and Joe E. Christley (Bass) on Dec. 13.

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New luxury townhome, 2 large bedrooms, 2.5 baths, office, fireplace, dining room, hardwoods, 2 car garage. $1650/mo. Gary Chad, 14 West 404-874-6357.

Real Estate For Rent-House

KIRKWOOD- BRAND NEW vintage style bungalow, large 3BR/2BA, gourmet kitchen, stainless appliance's, Off-street parking. Quiet street. $1200/mo, NICE! 404-687-0251 sharman@marketing-techniques.com

EAST ATLANTA- Brand new 2 bedroom homes W/LOFT for rent. Located 5/minutes from downtown Atlanta within the perimeter. Hardwood floors, single car garage, vaulted ceilings & large master suite. $1200 to $1395/mo. Please call 404-216-8115.

GRANT PARK

2BR/1BA gourmet kitchen, new carpet, off street parking. New paint, washer/dryer. 2/blocks to Grant Park/Zoo Atlanta. $750/mo. Available Now. 404-624-1030.

MIDTOWN/ATLANTIC STATION, 2BR + office, LR/DR, hardwoods, DW, W/D, HVAC, garage, deck, fenced yard. Quiet, Great location at 14th & Atlantic. 1189 Atlantic Dr. $1200/mo + $1200 deposit. Pets ok w/deposit. 404-229-8788

Toco Hills

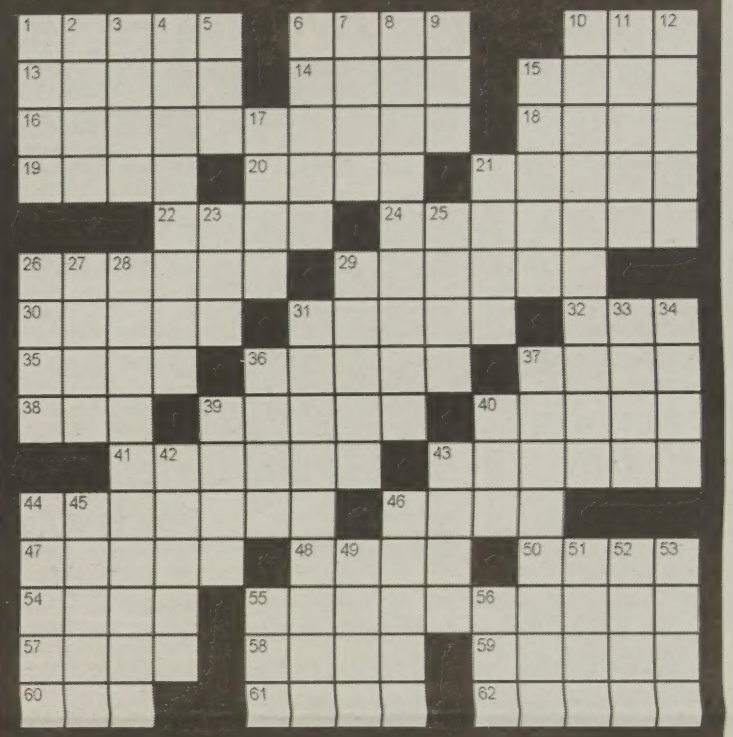
Brick ranch w/full basement, 2BR/1.5BA, den, screen porch, drive under garage, hardwoods, $1275/mo. Gary Chad, 14 WEST, 404-874-6357.

DRUID HILLS CANDLER PARK

Large 4BR/2BA, living room w/fireplace, sep. dining, sunroom. Big Backyard $1900/mo. Gary Chad, 14 West 404-874-6357 ext. 207.

➢ Continued on Page 30

Q Puzzle



'I'm Just Wild About Hairy'

Across

1. Transgender character of "Rent"
6. Having a small opening
10. Pen name
13. You beat it
14. Sagarin pseudonym
15. "A Suitable Boy" author Vikram
16. One's hairy date?
18. Project for the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund
19. R.E.M.'s "It's the End of the World ___ Know It"
20. Artist Horn
21. College buildings of same-sex roommates
22. Cukor's "A ___ Is Born"
24. Jewelle Gomez's "The Gilda ___"
26. Pantyhose-wearing Mel of "What Women Want"
29. Island not far from Queens
30. Do equivalent, in song
31. Ann Bannon's pulp character Brinker
32. Cut leaves of grass
35. Consenting votes
36. State of Cathedral of Hope
37. It shows a drag queen's knees
38. Nureyev's country, once (abbr.)
39. Stuck with a Democrat?
40. "Shall We ___?"
41. Ursine mascot of UCLA
43. "Annie on Her Mind" author Nancy
44. P of PFLAG
46. Lindbergh biographer A. Scott ___
47. Sean of "Will and Grace"
48. "Whar" she blows
50. Tops
54. ___ sex (telling dirty jokes?)
55. Hairy stockbroker's workplace?
57. Loads
58. Wilde country
59. Distributed some queens, perhaps
60. Xtra's prov.
61. "Cheeky" linemen?
62. Vogue

Down

1. Rock band going either way?
2. Ballots that vote out
3. Chew like a beaver
4. Ways to come out
5. Down and out
6. Crisp or Callow
7. Gielgud of "Arthur"
8. "Significant Others" author Maupin
9. Some leaves of grass
10. Hairy guy of one's dreams?
11. "C'est Moi," to King Arthur
12. "One Night in Bangkok" musical
15. Get lucky
17. Coward's confession
21. Inflict upon
23. Rocky top
25. Hunter picking up the check?
26. G of PFLAG
27. Bad day for Caesar
28. Anita's hairy closeted son?
29. "Battle of the ___" (victory for Billie Jean)
31. "West Side Story" composer
33. First word in fairy tales
34. Setting of Tom Hulce's "Amadeus", to Austrians
36. Nothing appendage?
37. "Forbidden Fires" author Anderson
39. The NRA makes them shoot off
40. Fans of Molly Pitcher (abbr.)
42. Mary Guzman output
43. Idea's beginning
44. Mapplethorpe work
45. Composer Copland
46. Homophone of the animals in this puzzle's theme
49. Scoppettone's "Trying ___ to Hear You"
51. Neither top-of-the-line nor bottom-of-the-barrel
52. Title role for Jodie Foster
53. Suffix with Smurf
55. Insect whose boss is a queen
56. You see them only after they're taken out

Answers on Page 30

atlanta classifieds

➢ Continued from Page 29

DECATUR

Charming renovated Ranch 2BR/2BA, den, living/dining room, hardwoods carport. $1800 monthly, Gary Chad, 14 West 404-874-6357 x207

VIRGINIA HIGHLAND

Charming cottage 3BR/2BA, den, sunroom, breakfast room, deck, porch, fireplace, 2 car open garage. $1600/mo. Gary Chad, 14 West. 404-874-6357 ext. 207

ORMEWOOD PARK

2BR/1BA, renovated kitchen, family room, lower level office/workshop, deck, large backyard, $1200/mo. Gary Chad, 14 West. 404-874-6357 ext. 207

DECATUR/ AVONDALE

2BR/2BA, (MASTER SUITE), lots of closets, HVAC, LR-fireplace, study, large deck, backyard, Private drive, partial utilities included. $950 404-289-1954

East Atlanta, 2BR/2BA house with fireplace, fenced yard, off street parking. $900/mo plus deposit. 404-277-0288

East Cobb!

2-Story 4BR/2.5BA w pool! All appliances & 2 car garage on a quiet cul-de-sac with fantastic Golf Course view! $1700/mo + deposit. Available now! 404-815-9714.

Real Estate For Rent-Lofts

FULTON-DOWNTOWN, CASTLEBERRY LOFTS, approx. 1800 sq'. Wall of windows w/skyline view & big office/library. 1.5 baths open plan. $1500/mo. Available mid December. RE/MAX Buckhead 404-370-0050.

Real Estate For Sale

LAKE ARROWHEAD

QUIET & SERENE! For Sale or Lease. 6BR/6BA, beautiful Lakefront property. This spectacular home has all the amenities and then some! Quiet, safe neighborhood. MUST SEE!!!! $630,000 By Owner 404-815-9714.

INMAN PARK

3BR/2BA, 4-fireplaces, porch, deck. Original windows, heart pine floors. Lovingly restored w/modern amenities. $419,000. 404-733-6806.

ANSLEY @ COLONY SQUARE- Just listed, LOCATION!! Ansley Terrace Condo, total renovation—granite & marble kitchen & baths, Crown moulding, 2BR/2-full Baths, den, covered deck, dining area, fireplace in LR. $299,900 call 404-892-2405

BEACH HOMES

Looking for the perfect vacation or retirement home/condo? Consider the beach communities of Seaside, Seagrove and Grayton Beach, Florida. White sand, emerald water, old Florida cottages and great shopping! Call Chris Cash at 1-800-994-5030 or email: cash@30Arealty.com.

Terraces at P'tree

Buckhead's #1 Highrise.
***1BRs -$140's,
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*** Prime Location, Secured property, pool, fitness center, Garage, Clubroom.
"Because there's no place like home."
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404-352-5570.
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Proudly serving the Gay & Lesbian Community Nationwide.

INSIDE PERIMETER

MUST SEE: Outside-Beautifully landscaped, jacuzzi, hot tub on great back deck, fenced back yard, detached 2 car garage. Located in great "family" neighborhood. Inside-Hardwood and ceramic tile throughout, cedar closets, wood burning stove in den, formal dining room, newly painted, professionally decorated and too many extras to mention! 3BR/1.5BA. $195,900. Off 85/Chamblee Tucker 678-296-8433

Room For Rent

FUN spaces for FUN PEOPLE. Elegant Edwardian home on Grant Park. $125/wkly. Shared utilities. No animals or inside smoking. 404-627-4794.

Roommate Services

NCROOMIES

(877) 547-9960, http://communities.msn.com/NCRoomiesnet. Chat online, Monday/Wednesdays 10:30pm. Looking for Gay Roomie AOL/Townsquare/24hr.

Roommates

Grant Park - GF seeks 1-2 GF/M or open minded person to share large beautifully remodeled 3BR/2BA house. W/D, HW,large fenced backyard & deck w/view, off-street pking, new appl. Comes w/pets but additional pets considered. $650/mo + utilities. 404-483-5909

Lithia Springs GWCouple to share house. Atlanta minutes away to play. $375 + 1/3 utility expenses. NO smoking, Pets negotiable. H-770-489-8655, O-404-657-3538.

SMYRNA, E/W CONNECTOR-GM to share large house. 1st room, 29x30, sep. entrance, heat/ac, $500/mo. 2nd room, 10x11, $350/mo. Both fresh paint, off-street parking, w/d, satellite TV System. Call Jason 404-213-0566 or 770-739-0909.

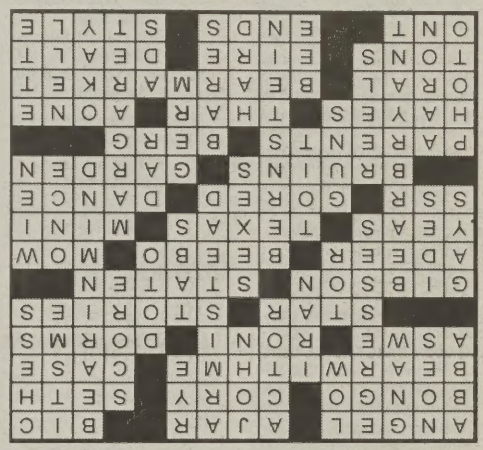
DECATUR- 3BR/2.5BA home w/garage. Seeks nonsmoking roommate. No pets, fully furnished. $450/mo + 1/2 gas & electricity. Please call 404-289-1589.

Decatur/Emory. GWM couple seeks to share beautiful new 3 story home with profession M/F. Private level w/own bedroom, bath, L/V, patio. Garage parking. Close to Emory/CDC and downtown Decatur. Share gourmet kitchen, laundry w/ W/D. $900/mo incl utilities. Call 404-373-3836.

MIDTOWN- GWM, 29, seeks roommate to share 2BR/2.5BA Townhouse just blocks from Ansley Mall. 3/story townhouse is spacious & includes private parking, w/d, cable. $625/mo includes utilities. Available immediately. Mike 404-872-0789.

Q Puzzle solution

Answers to puzzle on Page 29



southern voice

Classified Order Form
Fax: 404-876-2709
Phone: 404-876-1819 ext. 15

TO PLACE AN AD: IN PERSON: Bring completed order form with payment to *Southern Voice* (M-F, 9-6 pm) 1075 Zonolite Rd., Ste. 1-D, Atlanta. **BY MAIL:** Mail completed order form with payment to *Southern Voice* Classifieds, 1075 Zonolite Rd, Ste. 1D, Atlanta, GA 30306. **BY PHONE:** Call in with completed order form to 404-876-1819 ext. 15. **BY FAX:** Fax completed order form and credit card information to Classifieds 404-876-2709. **BY E-MAIL:** classifieds@sovo.com. **AD POLICY:** *Southern Voice* reserves the right to edit, reclassify or reject ads not meeting *Southern Voice* standards. No refunds for early cancellation. Misprints: *Southern Voice* is not responsible for misprints appearing after first week. Check ads promptly.

DEADLINE FOR AD SUBMISSION • ATLANTA: MONDAY AT 12 NOON

1 PICK YOUR CATEGORY

FREE: Call for guidelines
___ HIV Services & Education
___ Volunteers

INDIVIDUAL RATE $7:
___ Announcements
___ Auditions
___ Employment–Seeking
___ Pets–Free or Lost & Found
___ Roommates

BUSINESS RATE $15:
___ Autos
___ Business
___ Employment–Full Time
___ Employment–Part Time
___ Finance
___ Health
___ Legal
___ Massage Therapy
___ Merchandise
___ Pets–For Sale, Training
___ Publications
___ Real Estate–For Rent
___ Real Estate–For Sale
___ Travel

Call 404-876-1819 ext. 15 (ATL) or 504-821-9041 (NEW ORL) for other categories

2 WRITE YOUR AD
Please print clearly

CATEGORY:_____ **# OF ISSUES:** _____

Giant Headline ($5/week)–Not to exceed 14 characters and spaces

TEXT: _____

3 TOTAL YOUR COST

INDIVIDUAL RATE ADS
Up to 20 words for $7.00 per week. Additional words at 50¢ each per week.
Up to 20 words: 7.00
Additional words ____ x 50¢: _____
Giant headline: 5.00 (per week)
Subtotal: _____ x ____ # of issues
Total: $_____

BUSINESS RATE ADS
Up to 20 words for $15.00 per week. Additional words at $1.00 each per week.
Up to 20 words: 15.00
Additional words ____ x $1.00: _____
Giant headline: 5.00 (per week)
Subtotal: _____ x ____ # of issues
Total: $_____

Name: _____
Address: _____
City _____ State_____ Zip_____
Phone _____
Check Enclosed ____ Charge to my ❑ AMEX ❑ MC ❑ VISA
Card #_____ Exp.____/____

Buford Hwy-GWM, to share 2BR/2BA. Convenient to bars & shopping. Must be low key & clean. Smokers preferred. No drugs/drinks. References required. Call 404-477-3446.

Midtown/GM seeks roommate to share 2BR/1.5BA townhouse across from Ansley Mall, W/D Quick Access to 75/85/400 $485/MO plus 1/2 Utilities. No Pets/Smoke/Drugs 678-702-1737.

GWM seeks M/F to share 2BR house behind Agnes Scott College in Decatur. No chemicals or bar scene! Must love big dogs & appreciate a quirky/hippy like environment. $550/mo including utilities....$150/deposit. Michael 404-377-4097.

MORNINGSIDE/VA.Highlands-GWM seeks responsible roommate to share a large newly renovated home. House features a pool, hot tub, and home theater. $600/mo includes utilities & maid service 404-873-1000.

Marietta- Roommate(s) wanted to share nice 3BR apartment. Continent to downtown, w/easy access to I-75/I285. $450/mo includes utilities & amenities. 770-449-7810 ext4 before 4pm or 770-516-4211 after 6pm

BROOKHAVEN- GWM seeks non-smoking roommate. For 2 bedroom apt. $425/mo. Call 404-848-9816

Decatur/Covington Highway. Basement in-law suite w/private entrance in nice quiet neighborhood. Private Kitchen, bath, large common room, W/D, & large backyard. 1.3 miles from Kensington MARTA Station, 10 minutes from downtown Decatur. Looking for responsible, clean, and respectful roommate. Pets negotiable. $475/mo. + 1/4 utilities. Call Eric or Marc 404-288-8337.

Midtown/GWM seeks roommate for 2BR/2BA apartment. W/D, pool, gym, N/S, N/D, N/P. $520/mo. plus utilities. Avail.NOW. 404-636-7852.

GF seeks good roommate to share modern Grant Park duplex. W/D, AC, off-street parking. Great space, nice yard. $350/mo. 404-627-8662.

Marietta, GM seeks roommate to share 2BR/2.5BA townhouse. $ 375/mo.plus 1/2 utilities. Close to I-75. 404-277-2923.

TUCKER- GWM seeks roommate to share 2BR/2.5BA. Private bath, parking, w/d. $425/mo + deposit and 1/2 utilities. 770-564-3564.

DECATUR- GWF seeks professional roommate to share 3BR/1BA house. $525/mo includes utilities. No smokers/pets. 404-285-0035.

DECATUR/Clarkston- 3 F seek roommate to share 4BR/2.5BA, decks, woods, stream, indoor pool, W/D, Master Bedroom, $500 Share utilities 404-256-0918.

Midtown-GWM seeks roommate to share 2BR/2BA with myself and 2 cats. $500/mo. plus 1/2 utilities. 404-881-0277.

GWF seeking responsible roommate to share 3BR/2BA home near Kennesaw State. No pets. Non-smoking preferred. 770-366-3725.

Rooms For Rent

Home But Not Alone- Enjoy reduced rent and comfortable housing. Fast placements, homes now available! No waiting list. Share with a person living with HIV. Call Rita at 770-395-2625 or call Susan at 770-395-2546.

Services

MOVING?

Executive Moving Service! We do homes, apartments & offices. Dependable, professional movers, 770-736-6093. "We take the STRESS out of moving."

Travel

Alpine Helen

Romantic MOUNTAIN LAUREL CHALET, jacuzzi, fireplace, satellite TV, 3 bedrooms, sleeping loft, 2 bathrooms. Seasonal specials. Free brochure. Call 404-325-9763 or visit our Web site www.whitecounty.com/chalet.

Metro Atlanta Suite

Prime Buckhead location, Awesome Accommodations, Reasonable Rates, Short or Long Term. 404-352-5570, www.PrideRealty.com.

Volunteers

INTERNSHIP POSITIONS

A development intern is needed to assist in the organization's fund-raising efforts. This energetic self-starter will work to help develop and implement the organization's fund-raising plans; perform research for prospective donors and grants; formulate materials for presentations; implement a donor appreciation plan and oversee training for fund-raising volunteers. College credit will be given if applicable and needed. Requires a commitment of 15 - 20 hours per week, flexible hours. **********A volunteer coordinator intern is needed to assist with the organization's individual programs and volunteer recruitment and retention. A very self-motivated, personable individual is needed in this position. This intern will work implementing the organization's volunteer plan and systems; coordinating monthly volunteer orientations and training; maintaining the volunteer database; scheduling off-site volunteer recruitment and awareness activities; planning volunteer appreciation parties with community partners; helping to develop program collateral/brochures and help maintain volunteer information on the organization's Web site. College credit will be given if applicable and needed. This position will require 15 -20 hours per week, flexible hours. Please contact us at 404.523.7500 or at cw@aglc.org. Visit our Web site www.aglc.org

The Ga. Council on Child Abuse is a statewide, non-profit, child abuse prevention agency. Volunteers are needed in a variety of opportunities. For more information on volunteering please call 404-870-6573.

FOOD NOT BOMBS

Volunteers needed to help prepare and serve meals for the homeless and needy. Founded in Boston in 1981, 140 locations nationwide and abroad, serving 3 times weekly. Financial Aid Welcomed! To volunteer, call Bob Darby at 404-622-5859.

Designated drivers

DESIGNATED DRIVERS ASSOC of ATLANTA is looking for individuals, businesses and social groups to assist in our efforts to provide Volunteer Team Drivers to take impaired individuals and their car home for FREE! Our sponsors include but are not limited to bars, restaurants, nightclubs and corporate events. Our drivers work in teams of 2 and each driver is issued a 2-way radio so you are never alone! Although this is a Volunteer Opportunity many of our volunteers received $$TIPS$$. Currently, volunteers are needed on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings from 10pm to 4am to provide safe rides home for impaired drivers and their cars. Ongoing. Please call Chris Napty Director of Volunteers and Fund raising at 404-888-0887 ext 104.

Help a child

AID Atlanta is looking for responsible adults who have one morning a week available to volunteer in the playroom at the Grady Ponce de Leon Center. You would be caring for HIV-infected and affected children 10 years and younger. For more information please call Bob Ford 404-870-7741.

NATIONAL AIDS EDUCATION & SERVICES for MINORITIES is seeking volunteers for the following areas: special events, bar & club outreach, clerical support, house monitor, food pantry, clothing closet, fund raising, yard maintenance, group facilitation, and education. Volunteer training available monthly. Please contact Jala at 404-753-2900, ext 17.

The Atlanta Harm Reduction Center is a grassroots street outreach program whose focus is to stop the spread of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, by providing information, condoms, referrals, and more to the people who are underserved in our communities. VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED! Please donate some of your time and energy. For more info write to: A.H.R.C. 1020 DeKalb Ave NE suite 17, Atlanta, Ga. 30307, or call 404-526-9222. AHRAATLANTA@JUNO.COM

NATIONAL AIDS EDUCATION & SERVICES for MINORITIES will be facilitating a support group for men who are HIV positive and have AIDS. Every Wednesday 6pm til 7:30pm, 2001 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr, suite 602 404-753-2900 ext 17.

Alvaro Lopez, MD Andrew Pugliese, MD

COMPREHENSIVE CARE ASSOCIATES

announces the opening of our ALPHARETTA office, specializing in:

- INFECTIOUS DISEASE
- HIV INFECTION
- CHRONIC SINUSITIS
- HEPATITIS
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MOST INSURANCE PLANS ACCEPTED

CALL TODAY FOR AN APPOINTMENT

** 10 years of compassionate care through our Tucker office*
** Highly respected, board certified Infectious Disease specialists*
** Offering the most comprehensive HIV care available in Atlanta*
** Modern office in stand alone building with discreet rear entrance*

2365 OLD MILTON PARKWAY, ALPHARETTA, GA 30005
PH: 770-939-1601 FAX: 770-270-1711

Mouth Sores? HIV?

If you have mouth sores and are HIV-positive, you may be eligible to test a new treatment for mouth sores.

- Receive excellent care from experts at the National Institute of Health Clinical Center in Bethesda, Maryland.
- Stay on your regular course of HIV/AIDS medical treatment while on the study.
- There is no charge for study medication.
- Assistance with transportation may be provided.
- NIH staff will try to accommodate flexible scheduling needs.
- All participants may have the opportunity to take part in additional NIH studies upon completion of this study.

For more information about this study call 1-888-606-0220

Interested deaf or hard of hearing callers should use their state relay service to contact the number above.

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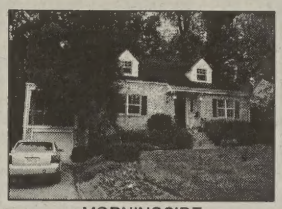
THROUGH JANUARY 12, 2002

Expect More



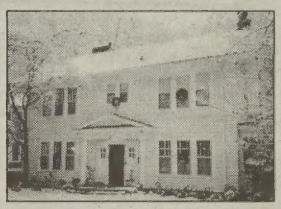
MORNINGSIDE
Charming 3BR/2BA
1930s bungalow w/ lots
of upgrades. Gourmet kitchen,
hdwd flrs, screened porch,
drive-under gar.
Ann Hudson * $419,000

LAVISTA PARK
Fantastic location! 2BR/1BA
has LG rooms, hdwd's, formal LR
& DR, big screened porch.
Move-in Ready!
Mike Haralson • $249,900

VIRGINIA HIGHLAND
Great Opportunity!!
Quaint 2BR/1BA w/ hdwd's,
frpl, high ceilings, garage
& partially finished attic.
Kay Goldstein • $279,000

MORNINGSIDE
Fabulous '30s bungalow overlooks
woods & stream. Bonus loft space,
hdwd flrs, sunroom, tiled kitchen & more!
Mike Kondalski & Todd English
$329,500

DECATUR
This is the Deal! Spacious 3BR/2BA
charmer has high ceilings, new big
sunroom, gorgeous yard
& huge music studio on lower.
Beth Smith • $254,900



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Stunning 3BR/2BA, 1912 traditional on
almost full acre. Fab grand staircase,
5 fireplaces, hdwd floors.
Diane Reimer • $499,900

BRIARCLIFF
Well Maintained & Generous Sized
4BR/2BA has LG FR w/ frpl,
vaulted ceil's & exposed brick.
A steal at this price!!
Dorothy Gold • $275,000

CANDLER PARK
Delightful 2BR/2.5BA patio home
has all the convenience
of Intown living + no lawn work!
Huge windows, sunporch & more!
Viviann Payne • $209,900

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